

July 22, 2022

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405

Re: Request to Delay Disposition of the Federal Helium System

Dear Administrator Carnahan:

On behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), the voice of the U.S. semiconductor industry, one of the nation's top export industries and a key driver of America's economic strength, national security, and global competitiveness, I'm writing to request a delay in the pending disposition of the Federal Helium System (FHS) to ensure the supply of helium remains secure and uninterrupted.

Helium is a critical input in manufacturing processes in a number of industries, including semiconductor fabrication. The helium market has been subject to significant volatility in recent years and the FHS has played an important role in ensuring adequate supplies. Currently, supplies of helium are constrained due to a range of market and geopolitical factors. Suppliers are issuing Force Majeure letters and allocating limited supplies. Suppliers also have not been able to commit to meet the increased volumes required in 2023 and beyond to support the expected rapid expansion of our industry.

Based on information from our suppliers, we understand the current schedule for disposition of the FHS could result in a lengthy shutdown of the operating system. At this time, we fear the transfer of these assets to new ownership poses a high risk of exacerbating an already constrained supply of this essential gas and further disrupting domestic semiconductor fabrication.

To help secure a safe and reliable supply of helium to the semiconductor industry and avoid adverse impacts to our economy and national security, we respectfully request the GSA delay the impending sale of federal helium assets.

Sincerely,

