

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As you seek to address the serious health crisis facing our country, the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) requests your administration issue guidance for states and localities that specifies the critical nature of the semiconductor industry in the U.S., defines our industry as “essential infrastructure” and/or “essential business” for the purposes of managing the workforce and operations in this crisis, and promotes continuity in operations of one of America’s most vital industries.

Semiconductors are a key enabling technology of electronic products critical to virtually all sectors of the U.S. economy, including healthcare and medical devices, telecommunications, energy, finance, transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing. Semiconductors are essential components of the technologies that control our critical infrastructure, such as water systems, the energy grid, and our communications network. The ability of the semiconductor industry across the supply chain in the U.S. to maintain operations in semiconductor research, design, and manufacturing is needed to support these vital parts of our economy and our critical infrastructure, both now and in a future economic recovery.

Semiconductor companies are also a critical to the U.S. defense industrial base – microelectronics technology supports our national security and the military’s critical defense needs. For example, the advantage of our warfighters is due, in part, to U.S. leadership in semiconductor technology that provides our military and national security community with advanced capabilities. Maintaining manufacturing and service operations and the industry’s supply chain are vital to maintaining our long-term national security.

Public health measures announced by states and local governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including quarantine orders and mandatory business closures, are important steps in our battle against the pandemic, which must remain the top priority of our country. In crafting such measures, it is imperative these directives provide exceptions for industry operations that are critical to our economy and national defense, such as the semiconductor industry. The U.S. semiconductor industry will take all necessary steps to safeguard the health and safety of workers and assist in our country’s efforts to prevail in the face of this enormous challenge, but continuity of operations is imperative to our country’s economy, infrastructure, and national security. It is worth noting that other nations, in recognition of the strategic importance of the

semiconductor industry, have prioritized uninterrupted operations for their domestic companies and suppliers.

As you and your administration take actions to address the public health crisis and stabilize the economy, we call on you to take measures to ensure the continued operations of the semiconductor industry in the United States.

Sincerely,



cc: Vice President Mike Pence
Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of Defense Mark Esper
Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross
Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf
National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow

