

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Shimkus, and Ranking Member Tonko:

The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) supports efforts to improve the federal chemical management program and we believe that the TSCA Modernization Act of 2015 (H.R. 2576) is a positive step forward in achieving this goal.

Semiconductors – the key enabling technology for modern electronics that supports virtually all sectors of our economy – are an essential driver of U.S. economic and technology leadership and our national security. The U.S. semiconductor industry is an advanced manufacturing sector that directly employs 250,000 Americans and indirectly generates approximately 1.1 million additional jobs. Semiconductors are among the top three manufactured exports of the United States.

The manufacturing of advanced semiconductors requires the carefully controlled use of chemicals and materials that are selected for their unique chemical and physical attributes. In most cases, there are no viable alternatives to these chemicals, and the industry employs sophisticated controls to minimize releases of these chemicals to the environment or exposure to workers. The sound regulation of chemicals essential to our manufacturing processes is a key issue for the continued success of the U.S. semiconductor industry.

The TSCA Modernization Act would make important reforms to the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 to enhance the protection of health and the environment, while also providing the semiconductor industry (and others) with certainty in the selection and use of chemicals. One of the strengths of the bill is its targeted approach. While certain elements of TSCA have long needed reform, other aspects of the TSCA statute and program have worked well. The TSCA Modernization Act amends statutory provisions that warrant change, while preserving existing sections of the law that are working well. We congratulate you on this bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,



John Neuffer