



July 11, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Facsimile: 202.228.1229

Dear Chairman Specter:

The U.S. semiconductor industry leads the world in technology and market share. To retain this leadership position, our industry depends on the contributions of skilled engineers, scientists, mathematicians, and technologists. These are the talented individuals who regularly challenge the limits of science and drive innovation.

While our dependence on ground breaking research and innovation grows every year, far too few American students possess the strong pre-requisite education needed to enter these fields. Improving America's K-12 math and science education is a cornerstone of continued U.S. competitiveness, and a priority of the Board of the Semiconductor Industry Association

As you consider the FY 2007 Labor/HHS appropriations bill, we urge you to fully fund the K-12 math and science programs at the Department of Education as requested in the President's American Competitiveness Initiative.

Specifically, we support the following ACI education initiatives:

- **MathNow** (\$250M) will give teachers the tools to improve our K-8 curricula and ensure middle school students are prepared to master algebra;
- **Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Incentive** and teacher training (\$90M) to increase the number of high school students pursuing and succeeding in rigorous math and science courses;
- **Adjunct Teacher Corps** (\$25M) to enable math and science professionals to assist in filling the shortage of teachers with content knowledge in these areas.
- **National Math Panel** (\$10M) to examine proven approaches to teaching math to inform curricula development.

Further, we would encourage funding the Department of Education's **Math/Science Partnerships** at least at current levels (\$184M), with priority given to those programs that focus on proven strategies to improve teacher content knowledge.

All of our companies are actively engaged in our communities to increase interest and student achievement in science, technology, math, and engineering, from K-12 to graduate level. The private sector must continue to work with the federal government to ensure that the U.S. workforce is equipped with these essential skills for the next century. These federal investments in math/science education under the ACI are critical to this goal.

Sincerely,

Hector Ruiz
Chairman & CEO
Advanced Micro Devices, Incorporated

Abhi Talwalkar
President & CEO
LSI Logic Corporation

Richard Clemmer
President & CEO
Agere Systems

Steven R. Appleton
Chairman, President & CEO
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Dr. John E. Kelly III
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Intersil Corporation

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Larry W. Sumney
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