

March 19, 2013

Rep. Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
Washington, DC 20515

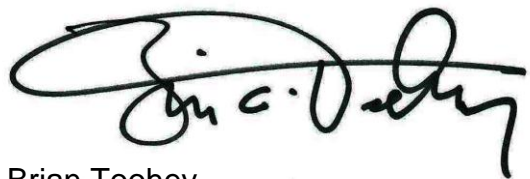
Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey:

On behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), I am writing to urge prompt passage of legislation to address the supply of helium, an essential input into the semiconductor manufacturing process and critical to maintaining our country's leadership in semiconductor manufacturing and innovation. This gas is also important to other types of advanced manufacturing and scientific research. The enactment of legislation to prevent a serious shortfall in the supply of helium is a top priority for our industry and work on this issue must be completed early this year.

The "Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act" (H.R. 527) is an important and positive step forward in resolving the impending helium shortage by continuing and restructuring sales of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve. We commend you on moving this important bill to markup and urge the full House to move legislation forward promptly.

We understand that additional amendments to the bill will be considered during markup on March 20 to further strengthen the certainty and continuity of supply and help safeguard the long-term supply contracts that characterize the helium supply market. With these revisions the bill addresses many of the issues and concerns we have highlighted concerning the operations of the Reserve and the continued certainty of supply. We urge the Congress to act on helium legislation immediately and pass a bipartisan bill to address this important issue. Passage of H.R. 527 with the amendments by the bill sponsors is an important step in this effort.

Sincerely,



Brian Toohey
President and CEO