

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

26 June 2007

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
117 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
119 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Gentlemen,

As you begin your work on the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Appropriations bill, we are writing to urge you to support the university-based semiconductor Focus Center Research Program (FCRP). The government funding for the FCRP program has been traditionally split between the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Government/Industry Co-sponsorship of University Research (GICUR) program in DDR&E. This year, the budget request for DARPA (PE 0601101E—Electronic Sciences) includes \$10 million for FCRP, but the budget request does not include any funds for GICUR (PE 0601111D8Z). We ask that you provide \$10 million to the GICUR line item, thus bringing the total government FCRP contribution to \$20 million.

As you know, The FCRP Governing Council has representation from both DARPA and DDR&E and is charged with reviewing results and distributing the allocated funds directly to 38 universities on a merit basis. The semiconductor industry has matched congressional funding dollar for dollar and pledges to supplement future government investment. The FCRP is a successful model of government-industry-academia cooperation. The research is targeted to solving challenges that must be overcome to advance this ever-evolving technology. The results derived via the dedication of over 400 students and 200 professors working at 38 universities nationwide clearly benefit our economy as a whole and help to sustain and strengthen U.S. leadership in semiconductor technology. Continued funding for the FCRP is consistent with the strong bipartisan support for strengthening America's competitiveness

The program addresses defense research priorities such as: power efficient devices for small remote sensors or lighter battlefield electronics; nanofabrication capabilities tailored for the military's low volume requirements; robust designs for extreme military operating environments; continued American leadership in the 'beyond CMOS' technology; and timely awareness of new ideas that could become disruptive technologies that allow international competitors to supplant U.S. defense capabilities.

We believe it is critically important for the government to continue to join with industry and academia to support the FCRP, a long-term program designed to maintain the technology leadership of the United States. Therefore, we would be grateful if you appropriate an additional \$10 million for the FCRP in Fiscal Year 2008.

Sincerely,

Saxby Chambliss

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Edward M. Kennedy

John F. Kerry ✓

Ron Wyden

Carl Levin

John G. Hatch

Susan M. Collins

Ken Salazar

Rob Portman

Chuck Schumer

Mark Pryor

John Cornyn

Mike Crapo

Tommy Daschle

Maria Cantwell

Elizabeth Dole

Dominick Danza

Jeff Sessions