

March 02, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the U.S. semiconductor industry, I write to urge swift action to advance the nomination of Robert Lighthizer to serve as United States Trade Representative. With its central roles of opening markets and working to strengthen the rules-based global trading system, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is critical to the health of the U.S. economy and to the semiconductor industry.

The U.S. semiconductor industry is a significant contributor to the country's strength and technological leadership. Semiconductors form the foundation of the digital infrastructure our country depends on for economic growth, productivity, and solutions to societal and governmental challenges.

Strong trade policy is necessary for U.S. semiconductor companies to do business in today's global economy. With more than 80 percent of U.S. semiconductors sold to customers residing outside the United States, our ability to grow, innovate, and create U.S. jobs is closely tied to open access to overseas markets. Trade has helped enable our industry to support more than one million jobs in America, account for over half of the world's chip sales, and become the world's most advanced manufacturing sector. Thanks largely to free trade, semiconductors are America's third-largest manufactured export, after airplanes and automobiles.

The continued strength of the U.S. semiconductor industry and our economy depends on a forward-leaning USTR. To advance America's trade interests around the world, this important agency must have effective leadership in place as well as a capable team of deputies. Mr. Lighthizer is a seasoned trade hand. And, he has the knowledge and experience to lead such a team in ways that can enhance U.S. businesses' ability to compete fairly in global markets. We urge swift action to take forward his nomination to serve as United States Trade Representative.

Sincerely,



John Neuffer
President & CEO