

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1407

May 6, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to strongly encourage the administration to follow a transparent and deliberate process, consistent with congressional intent, regarding changes to U.S. export control regulations that could disrupt the semiconductor manufacturing supply chain. The U.S. is the global leader in semiconductor technology, employing more than 300,000 American workers in high-skilled, well-paying jobs. Moreover, semiconductors are the foundation that enable both the medical equipment and remote working capabilities that have proven essential during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue our robust response to the pandemic, we must ensure that the U.S. retains its economic leadership position and avoids potential disruption to this critical semiconductor supply chain.

Congress reauthorized the U.S. dual-use export control regime in the 2018 Export Control Reform Act (ECRA). ECRA stated that it is the policy of the United States to “use export controls only after full consideration of the impact on the economy of the United States” while noting that “export controls applied unilaterally to items widely available from foreign sources generally are less effective in preventing end-users from acquiring those items.” The Act also called for transparency, including requiring a notice and comment period for newly authorized emerging and foundational controls.

American tech manufacturing is a central part of the U.S. economy and American companies that domestically produce semiconductors play a vital role in the continued development of the internet of things. This technological innovation will change our way of life in the years to come. Your administration’s tireless support of American made products and your effort to restore American manufacturing aligns well with ECRA’s requirement to maintain U.S. leadership in areas essential to innovation.

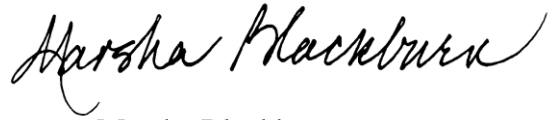
We are concerned that the Department of Commerce issued several new regulations related to semiconductors in final form, avoiding consultation with industry and without full consideration of the impact on the economy. Reports indicate the department is also considering unilateral U.S. controls that impose unique license requirements on U.S. exports that do not apply to exports from major U.S. trading partners. At this time of economic crisis and uncertainty, we urge the department to proceed cautiously, solicit feedback from industry, and ensure that well-intentioned proposals do not have unforeseen, damaging effects on the U.S. economy, U.S. technological leadership, and vital supply chains for our nation’s COVID-19 response. This approach would be consistent with your strong emphasis in February that U.S. export control

regulations should allow U.S. companies to maintain their international sales, including in the semiconductor sector. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Todd Young
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator