

January 27, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), I write in support of key provisions in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (H.R.1) aimed at stimulating the nation's economy and improving our global competitiveness. SIIA particularly supports the important \$1 billion down payment targeted toward the goal of modernizing our classrooms and instruction through the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program.

SIIA supports the Act's related investments in workforce preparedness and technology infrastructure, including digitizing health information, modernizing technology infrastructure of educational institutions, improving STEM education and student aid, expanding broadband access, enhancing R&D in the sciences and engineering, and providing business research and investment tax incentives. Many of these fulfill the investment promises of the America COMPETES Act. All are critical to laying the nation's 21<sup>st</sup> century economic recovery path to provide our continuing global competitiveness through leadership in science, technology and innovation.

With regard to the \$1 billion in funding for the EETT program, this investment will both generate jobs within the education, education services and technology sectors, as well as enable more innovative practices needed to instruct today's digital-native students and prepare them to succeed in the information age. SIIA stands ready to work further with Congress to provide these benefits of a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment to all students, and further leverage the Act's school modernization funds with EETT funds to focus directly on classroom instruction. For example, an expenditure of \$9.9 billion could ensure all economically-disadvantaged Title I students learn in a technology-rich classroom (e.g., well-equipped with computer hardware, software, digital and online curricular resources, and its teachers provided with professional development and support).

SIIA is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry, representing more than 500 leading high-tech companies. The software and information industries are key drivers of the new global knowledge economy, and are among the fastest-growing and highest-paying in the U.S. SIIA and our member companies have long collaborated to improve student learning through use of innovative technologies that help prepare our students to foster this growth.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact me or Mark Schneiderman, SIIA's Director of Education Policy, at 202-789-4444 or [marks@siia.net](mailto:marks@siia.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ken Wasch'.

Ken Wasch  
President