

For Immediate Release

SIIA Contact: Laura Greenback, Communications Manager, 410-533-1943, lgreenback@siia.net

PR Contact: Farrah Kim, [202-568.8986](tel:202-568.8986), farrahkim@rational360.com

SIIA Welcomes Progress on Federal IT Acquisition Reform; Expresses Lingering Concerns

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 14, 2013) – The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries, today welcomed the advancement of federal IT acquisition reform. Earlier today the House of Representatives passed an amendment (Amendment #166) authored by Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee adding the language of the Federal IT Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) to the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. With this action the proposed reform has taken another step forward, but SIIA continues to have concerns with a number of provisions in the bill.

“Federal IT acquisition reform is long overdue, and we appreciate the work of Chairman Issa, Rep. Connolly and their respective staffs to recognize the critical need for reform move it forward,” said Mike Hettinger, director of the SIIA Public Sector Innovation Group (PSIG). “FITARA puts in place needed changes in IT acquisition, including increasing the authority of federal CIOs, promoting data center optimization, and recognizing the importance of a highly trained IT acquisition workforce.”

SIIA has worked closely with Chairman Issa and other members of the Committee to revise the legislation since its March mark-up, while the Committee has moved forward with many of the changes, including those that preserve the important role of Value Added Resellers (VAR) in the federal market, the organization remains concerned about the net effect of the changes to the

language around the use of open source software and the language that would alter the application of FISMA by, in essence, codifying the FedRAMP program.

Hettinger continued, “While SIIA is pleased to see FITARA move forward and remains supportive of its overall objectives, we still have concerns with a number of specific provisions. We have expressed our concerns to the committee and look forward to continuing to work with Chairman Issa and interested members in the U.S. Senate to resolve these lingering issues, and ensure that the bill has the intended positive impact on the federal IT marketplace.”

About SIIA

SIIA is the leading association representing the software and digital content industries. SIIA represents approximately 700 member companies worldwide that develop software and digital information content. Information technology (IT) and software security are critical issues to SIIA’s members, many of whom strive to develop safe, secure and state-of the-art products that effectively serve their commercial and government customers alike, while protecting their intellectual property. For more information, visit www.siia.net .