Software & Information Industry Association
www.siia.net
SIIA

For Immediate Release

SIIA Public Policy Contact: Mark Bohannon, SVP, Public Policy and General Counsel
SIIA Communications Contact: John Crosby, VP Communications, +1 202-289-7442, *jcrosby@siia.net*

Software & Information Industry Association Highlights Essential and Critical Mission of NIST – and Department of Commerce – in Cybersecurity Policy

SIIA's Mark Bohannon Testifies Before House Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation

Washington, DC – *October 22, 2009* – Mark Bohannon, General Counsel and Senior Vice President for Public Policy at the Software & Information Industry Association today testified before the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation of the House Committee on Science and Technology. Addressing a hearing entitled, "*Cybersecurity Activities at NIST's Information Technology Laboratory*," Bohannon made four requests on behalf of American software and information companies:

- NIST should not be made a "regulator" of private sector actions.
- Strong consideration should be given to making the Computer Security Division a separate lab within NIST.
- NIST's primary customers – agencies of the Federal government – should be the focus of its efforts.
- The Committee should work with the private sector and the leadership of the Department of Commerce and other agencies in taking on the global challenge of other governments' stringent cybersecurity regimes.

The full text of Bohannon's testimony is available at www.siia.net.

In concluding his remarks, Bohannon stated:

"I reiterate the need for an engaged and prepared Department of Commerce in taking up the challenge of our nation's Cybersecurity strategy, and playing a key role in the direction of the 60-day Review. NIST is essential to that role. There is no other entity like NIST anywhere in the world. When we engage other governments, the officials sitting on the other side are almost entirely from their defense, intelligence and national security operations. And the recommendations and questions we have posed here chart what we believe is a path for a renewed and reinvigorated cyber and information security function of NIST.

"We also note that, in the few short months since Secretary Locke has taken over the leadership of the Department, we are seeing a more focused and engaged team at the top levels of the Department. This is a very positive development which we commend and look forward to working with."

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 500 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit www.siia.net.

# # #