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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0307

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October 18, 2023

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Wicker, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith,

As we continue our work on the FY24 NDAA, I respectfully request you support the inclusion of H.R. 4549, the Building Chips in America Act of 2023, or similar provisions, in any final Conference agreement.

The passage of the CHIPS and Science Act has already provided a boon to our economy, investing billions in new domestic manufacturing and innovations. It is also strengthening our national security by creating direct pathways for domestic designers and researchers to move their innovations to market, known as the transition from “lab to fab.” Filling this crucial gap will help lessen our dependence on foreign semiconductor supply chains and secure US chips production in the event of growing global instability, especially in the Indo-Pacific.

However, CHIPS and Science Act programs, including direct financial incentives and investments in research and development programs, are considered major federal actions, subjecting them to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This also includes projects that have already received the requisite environmental permits under federal and state law and have begun construction. These overly burdensome requirements threaten to delay projects that are vital to our national security and reduce incentives to further invest in domestic semiconductor manufacturing.

The Building Chips in America Act, which was included in the Senate-passed NDAA, would clarify that CHIPS Act projects are *not* major federal actions subject to review under NEPA, providing for timely completion of federal environmental reviews and streamlined approval of these critical projects. By passing the Building Chips in America Act, we can further support the ambitious goals of the CHIPS and Science Act by further incentivizing investment in our semiconductor supply chain.

It is imperative that we continue to prioritize the development of a domestic semiconductor industry to drive up American innovation and to shore up our supply chains from potential shocks to global production. To that end, I respectfully request the inclusion of H.R. 4549, or similar provisions, in any final FY24 NDAA Conference agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben Gallego". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS