

July 23, 2019

The Honorable Sekō Hiroshige
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
1-3-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8901
Japan

The Honorable Yoo Myung-hee
Minister for Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry
and Energy
402 Hannuri-daero
Sejong-si 30118
Republic of Korea

Dear Minister Sekō and Minister Yoo:

Our trade associations represent leading companies in the global information communications technology (ICT) and broader manufacturing industries that generate trillions of dollars in revenue annually and fuel economic growth and innovation around the world. We write to express our concern regarding recently announced export restrictions on certain semiconductor manufacturing materials, and request efforts for swift resolution of this issue to reduce harm to the global economy due to regulatory uncertainty, potential supply chain disruptions, and delays in shipments that may result from this ongoing dispute.

Global ICT and manufacturing industries rely on interwoven and complex global supply chains and just-in-time inventory to efficiently source components, chemicals, materials, and technology that has led to substantial innovation and growth. Japan and South Korea are important players in these global value chains. Non-transparent and unilateral changes in export control policies can cause supply chain disruptions, delays in shipments, and ultimately long-term harm to the companies that operate within and beyond your borders and the workers they employ.

We therefore urge both countries to expeditiously seek resolution of this issue and refrain from actions that could escalate the situation further in order to avoid potentially long-term damage to the global ICT and manufacturing industries. More broadly, we also urge all countries to rely on multilateral approaches to ensure that changes to export control policies are based on national security concerns and implemented in a transparent, objective, and predictable manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Signed,

Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI)
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)