



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM OFFICE
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD, SUITE 4235
FORT BELVOIR, VA 22060-6221



September 18, 2003

IN REPLY
REFER TO

Semiconductor Industry Association
Attention: Doug Andrey
181 Metro Drive, Suite 450
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Doug:

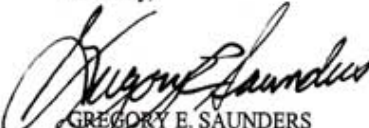
I sincerely apologize for the long delay in answering your letter to me regarding the GEM program. I have no good excuse, so all I can do is apologize.

I have done considerable research on this issue and have concluded that the program is being operated within DoD policies and guidelines and that no changes are needed at this time. Procedures are in place to ensure that parts are not emulated in competition with the private sector, either original parts suppliers or the extremely valuable after-market suppliers.

As you know, tension between the GEM program and the commercial marketplace is not new. We have worked this issue numerous times over the life of GEM involving SIA, individual part manufacturers, Defense Supply Center, Columbus technical staff, legal staff, GEIA G-12 representatives, DoD Weapon System Program Offices, and others. When we developed the "rules of the road" in 1997 (my letter to Dale Lillard and others of Sept 12, 1997), after extensive meetings and discussions, the issue of changing part numbers was never raised. From the research we have done, it appears that the GEM program is complying with all rules concerning part numbering, and any change at this point would entail costly drawing and tech manual changes without any identifiable benefit. After more than 15 years and 45,000 parts in service without any reported problems, I do not see a reason to change.

I appreciate SIA's continued interest in the small government sector of the microcircuit industry. Your help and leadership here are appreciated. I hope that we can continue to have good lines of communication. I promise that I will respond to any future correspondence in a more timely manner.

Sincerely,


GREGORY E. SAUNDERS
DIRECTOR

cc: RADM Linda J. Bird SC, USN
CAPT Mark Brown SC, USN
John Christensen, DLA