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Hearing on: “AI’ve Got a Plan: America’s AI Action Plan”

Statement before the
Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate

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Thank you, Chairman Budd, and Ranking Member Baldwin, as well as Full Committee Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell, for inviting me to speak to you today about the President's AI Action Plan.

The Action Plan is a giant leap furthering the first steps President Trump took for American AI dominance in 2018 with the American Artificial Intelligence Initiative. In his first week back in office, the President recommitted himself to U.S. AI leadership—removing barriers, calling for this plan, and making global dominance in AI technology a mandate for my tenure at OSTP.

The need for renewed effort was clear. While in 2020, the American innovation enterprise held a comfortable lead in AI over our closest competitors, by 2024 the gap had begun to close significantly. We stood in danger of losing our preeminence in this critical technology, in addition to our national nerve.

President Trump has restored a spirit of confidence to our innovation enterprise, with a Golden Age vision of renewed scientific rigor and technological invention for the prosperity of all Americans. We are approaching AI not with fear, but with responsible boldness, supporting and encouraging the best innovative work of private industry and America's universities.

Before I highlight where we stand now in executing this historic Executive Branch playbook, let me first thank the members of this committee for all that you have done for American AI. The administration can only promote and protect America's position as the global AI standard-setter with the Legislative Branch's support, and I look forward to working with each of you.

On July 23, the Trump Administration released "Winning the Race: America's A.I. Action Plan." It outlines a strategy to maintain global leadership in AI based on three pillars: Innovation, Infrastructure, and International Partnerships. That same day, President Trump signed three executive orders reflecting those three pillars:

"Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government" incentivizes removing ideological hinderances to innovation in model accuracy. "Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure" illustrates a common-sense approach to promoting AI infrastructure. And "Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack" recognizes that international adoption of American AI is as critical to maintaining global leadership as is having the best frontier models. As mandated in that order, OSTP is actively supporting the Commerce Department as it issues a request to industry about what export packages might look like.

Looking ahead, I see many opportunities for collaboration with this committee and the Congress as OSTP coordinates the administration's implementation of the AI Action Plan. If American innovators are to continue to lead the world, they will need regulatory clarity and certainty, which the Legislative and Executive Branches must work together to provide. From the creation of regulatory sandboxes for early product development, to the clear application of interstate commerce principles to prevent balkanized rulemaking that chokes product adoption, together we can find common-sense, pro-growth protections for America's workers, families, and children while freeing inventors to do what they do best.

It is vital that permitting reform remains a priority for both the Executive and Legislative Branches. As the President has said, it is time to build, build, build. We must all recognize that AI represents not just the next frontier of the digital, but enormous investment in the concrete and steel and critical minerals that make up our modern world. And while we work with industry and our partners abroad to develop packages of American AI for export, our innovators at home will continue to find novel applications of AI technology to everyday life. Adoption of cutting-edge products begins domestically, whether self-driving vehicles on American roads or large language models in legislative offices, and I look forward to working together to ensure they benefit all Americans through small business training, workforce development, and AI education.

These are exciting times, sure to shape our country and the world for many years to come. Just last week, the First Lady hosted our second meeting of the White House AI Education Task Force as we celebrated the pledged investments of many leading businesses, nonprofits, and parent groups in equipping America's young people to meet the challenges of the future. Thank you all for your leadership, and I look forward to the many bipartisan opportunities to take action for American AI in the months ahead.