

November 18, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader Jeffries:

As leaders of industry, academia, and civil society, we supported the forward-thinking, bipartisan establishment of the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) Task Force as part of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 and the establishment of the NAIRR pilot. In January 2023, the Task Force submitted its final report to the President and Congress, which included recommendations on what the NAIRR would do and how it would operate. Since then, exciting progress has been made through the NAIRR pilot, including 150 awards to academic institutions for research and education across the country, as well as the development of new public-private partnerships, all of which are needed to advance AI innovation in America.

It is now critical that Congress pass the Creating Resources for Every American To Experiment with Artificial Intelligence Act (CREATE AI Act) to fully establish the NAIRR. We strongly urge Congress to enact the CREATE AI Act as well as provide the necessary funding before the end of this year.

Research, experimentation, and innovation in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are integral to our nation's ability to compete internationally and bring allies together to foster a safe and beneficial future for this emerging technology. As the NAIRR Task Force report says, "American dominance is currently threatened. Countries such as China have made long-term investments that are bearing fruit in terms of both their scientific and technological achievements."

To secure U.S. global leadership, it is necessary to empower as many institutions as possible to advance research that can guide decisions surrounding AI's development and usage. Making computational power and data accessible will ensure that a diverse range of perspectives are shared within AI research, facilitate the exploration of diverse scientific challenges, and, importantly, provide the training needed to develop and cultivate the AI workforce of the future. In many ways, we are already behind. With over 30 nations that have already announced national AI strategies and initiatives, including investment in AI R&D, it is critical for the U.S. to establish the NAIRR to maintain our leadership globally.

AI holds the power to revolutionize every scientific field and will be vital in addressing longstanding unanswered questions that are key to improving humanity, enabling technology, and unleashing American innovation. From drug discovery and improving healthcare delivery, to saving lives by improving weather predictions, to accelerating semiconductor chip design, AI has the promise to transform science and accelerate innovation. To unlock this vast potential, researchers must be able to access advanced computational power and large volumes of data, which are unavailable to researchers outside of well-resourced technology companies.

To cement American leadership in AI, we urge Congress to swiftly pass the bipartisan, bicameral CREATE AI Act. However, passing CREATE AI is just one step in fully establishing the NAIRR, which must be provided with the necessary funding to ensure its utility and success. Fully realizing the potential for AI research and development will require robust and reliable federal investment, and we urge Congress to provide the funding needed to ensure the United States leads the world's development of safe, secure, and trustworthy AI.

Thank you for considering this request. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Amazon
Anthropic
Cisco
Datavant
Deeplearning.AI
EleutherAI
GitHub
Google
Hewlett Packard
HuggingFace
IBM
Institute for Progress
Intel
ITIF Center for Data Innovation
Kapor Center
Meta
Microsoft
ML Commons
Omidyar
OpenMined Foundation
Palantir
Regenstrief
Salesforce
SambaNova
SCSP Action Program
Vocareum
Weights & Biases

Boston University
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, San Bernardino
Case School of Engineering
Columbia University
Duke University
Emory University
Florida State University
Indiana University
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Michigan State University
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Oregon State University
Penn State University
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Princeton University
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
San Jose State University
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Stanford University
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University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Vanderbilt University

cc:

Chair Frank Lucas, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Chair Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Ranking Member Ted Cruz, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation