



February 5, 2024

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subcommittee on Research and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subcommittee on Energy
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Subcommittee Hearing on “Federal Science Agencies and the Promise of AI in Driving Scientific Discoveries”

Dear Members of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), we write to convey SIIA’s support for the Committee’s attention to federal research & development (R&D) activities to drive advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and specifically to express support for passage of H.R. 5077, the *CREATE AI Act of 2023*. SIIA applauds the progress that the U.S. government has taken to establish programs through the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Commerce to promote U.S. leadership in AI innovation and supplement efforts underway in the private sector with critical foundational research, education, and funding.

SIIA represents roughly 375 companies across the broad and diverse landscape of digital content providers and users in academic publishing, education technology, and financial information; creators of software and platforms used by millions worldwide; and companies specializing in data analytics and information services. Our mission is to protect the three prongs of a healthy information environment essential to that business: creation, dissemination and productive use.

The *CREATE AI Act* would authorize creation of the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR), pursuant to the recommendations of the NAIRR Task Force established by the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020. Although the Administration has launched a NAIRR pilot program under Executive Order 14110, the NAIRR is a critical vehicle to maintain U.S. leadership in AI research & development that will have enormous benefits for continued U.S. innovation and national security.

First, formalizing the NAIRR will help to build the AI infrastructure that the United States needs to maintain leadership in AI, including greater and more available compute resources and shared data sets. Among AI’s most significant challenges is the cost of building foundational, multi-purpose AI models outside of the largest tech firms and research universities. For example, the cost to train a machine

learning model such as GPT-3 has been estimated to be as high as \$4 million.¹ The NAIRR would help ameliorate these costs by providing “AI researchers and students with significantly expanded access to computational resources, high-quality data, educational tools, and user support.”² This will give startups, smaller AI developers and researchers access to the tools necessary to continue to innovate across the nation in AI, and in turn democratize access to training and development to a far broader base of entrepreneurs and researchers, dramatically enhancing U.S. innovation and AI capabilities.

Second, the NAIRR will advance federal R&D necessary to maintain U.S. leadership in AI innovation, standards, and applications. Harnessing innovation across American industry is crucial as competitive foreign actors seek to supersede U.S. leadership in AI. Yet in addition to rapidly developing the technology itself, the framework provided by the NAIRR would enable domestic AI development in line with American values of democracy and transparency. Rather than scattered development of machine learning models and differing standards depending on the developer, the NAIRR would empower the American public and private sectors to create agreed-upon standards and best practices for developing ethical and responsible AI.

Third, the *CREATE AI Act* will provide important direction from Congress to the Executive Branch about AI priorities. Congress has a key role to play in directing the resources of the federal government and there are limitations to what the Executive Branch can accomplish without dedicated resources and authorization from Congress. While we are optimistic that the NAIRR pilot program will prove successful to begin the process of developing the kind of infrastructure the United States needs to remain competitive in AI, without congressional action, it will be limited in its resourcing and in what it can accomplish.

We thank you very much for your consideration, and would be happy to discuss any of these issues further with you, if helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lekas
Senior Vice President, Head of Global Public Policy and Government Affairs

Anton van Seventer
Counsel, Privacy and Data Policy

Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)

¹ Vanian, Jonathan. "ChatGPT and Generative AI Are Booming, but the Costs Can Be Extraordinary." CNBC. March 13, 2023. <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/03/13/chatgpt-and-generative-ai-are-booming-but-at-a-very-expensiveprice.html>.

² National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force, “Strengthening and Democratizing the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Innovation Ecosystem: An Implementation Plan for a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource,” January 2023, <https://www.ai.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/NAIRR-TF-Final-Report-2023.pdf>.

