

The Honorable John Thune

Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer

Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson

Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 30, 2025

Dear Leaders Thune, Schumer, Johnson, and Jeffries:

We write to urge you to support inclusion of the Guaranteeing Access and Innovation for National Artificial Intelligence (GAIN AI) Act in the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act. This legislation takes commonsense steps to ensure that advanced AI chips are made available to American innovators before going to competitors and adversaries. As national security experts and former officials, we ask that you advance this critical legislation to strengthen U.S. economic leadership and our security posture in a world increasingly defined by technological competition.

America's continued leadership in AI depends on sustained access to cutting-edge compute. But while the most advanced semiconductors in the world are designed here in the United States, a globally supply-constrained environment has left many American firms facing backlogged orders for advanced AI chips.

At the same time, the Administration has opened sales of some high-end chips to China. These semiconductors, designed for Chinese markets, rely on the same limited production lines and inputs that American firms depend on for top-of-the-line chips. Expanding China-bound shipments threatens to further escalate demand and reduce availability for U.S. innovators, research labs, and defense partners.

The GAIN AI Act offers a narrowly tailored solution: it requires American chip makers to fill U.S. orders before selling to countries of concern. This is not protectionism—it is prioritization. When capacity is limited, ensuring American access first is the only responsible course.

The legislation does not restrict trade with allies. Its focus is limited to nations subject to comprehensive U.S. arms embargoes, such as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, or countries hosting their military or intelligence facilities. This approach mirrors long-standing defense export

controls and reflects bipartisan recognition that AI hardware is now a dual-use technology critical to U.S. strategic advantage.

AI is rapidly becoming the backbone of advanced intelligence, cyber defense, and autonomous systems. Maintaining priority access to compute is as vital to our long-term security as maintaining priority access to energy, rare earths, or steel was in past decades.

The GAIN AI Act is a measured, market-based safeguard that aligns U.S. innovation and national security. It ensures that American researchers, startups, and defense institutions are not left waiting in line while competitors abroad advance. We strongly urge the Senate to retain the GAIN AI Act in the NDAA.

Sincerely,

Brad Carson, *Americans for Responsible Innovation; Former Under Secretary of the U.S. Army*
Stewart Baker, *Former Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Former General Counsel for the National Security Agency*

Kyle Bass, *Hayman Capital Management*

Mark Beall, *AI Policy Network*

Oren Cass, *American Compass*

David Feith, *Former National Security Council; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State*

Tim Fist, *The Institute for Progress*

Samuel Hammond, *Foundation for American Innovation*

Dan Hendrycks, *Center for AI Safety*

Mitch Kominsky, *Former National Security Counsel and Congressional Investigator, U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*

Julies Krein, *American Affairs*

Chris McGuire, *Former Deputy Senior Director, National Security Council*

James Mulvenon, *Pamir Consulting*

Morgan Plummer, *Former Managing Director, National Security Innovation Network*

Matt Pottinger, *Former Deputy National Security Advisor*

Craig Singleton, *Foundation For Defense of Democracies*

Michael Sobolik, *Hudson Institute*

Satya Thallam, *Foundation for American Innovation; Former Office of Management and Budget*

cc: The Honorable Howard Lutnick,
U.S. Secretary of Commerce