



Mr. David Sacks
White House AI and Crypto Czar
San Francisco, CA

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

March 6, 2025

Dear Mr. Sacks and Secretary Lutnick,

Congratulations on your appointment to positions in the new Trump Administration. As the U.S. works to maintain its edge in the development of artificial intelligence, compete with international rivals, address growing energy demand, and enable the responsible deployment of AI across the U.S. economy, you both have a unique opportunity to facilitate responsible AI development to benefit the nation for years to come.

We write today as the AI Innovators Alliance, representing a diverse set of AI and tech entrepreneurs and ecosystem leaders advancing the development and deployment of AI. We appreciate this Administration's work to hear and prioritize the voices of small tech in policymaking, and we wish to see your success securing America's global leadership in the AI sector.

As leaders with a wealth of private sector experience, both of you understand the many challenges faced by American entrepreneurs. You understand that the innovation that drives the U.S. tech economy often comes from small businesses, startups, and researchers, which face unique hurdles in competing with larger, entrenched players. Your combined experience navigating this environment gives you a unique perspective on fostering a competitive, dynamic ecosystem and the importance of clarity, trust, and transparency to the success of new markets.

As you begin your new roles in the Trump Administration, we urge you to consider three key priorities that will significantly impact the innovation community and help ensure that the U.S. maintains its position as a global leader in this emerging technology.

Leadership on AI Standards

First, we urge you to be a strong advocate for the development of U.S.-led standards for AI evaluation and measurement, safety, transparency, and security. Silicon Valley's leadership in

frontier AI development is a strategic national resource for American industrial and geopolitical competitiveness. In order to understand what the capabilities of frontier models are, how and where they can be safely deployed, and our progress on the path towards Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), the U.S. government needs to advance measurement science in this area. Creating that insight into AI's development is the role of the U.S. AI Safety Institute within the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Other countries, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and EU member states have pursued creation of their own AI Safety/Security Institutes. The US should lead in evaluation and standards setting for frontier AI, just as we lead in its development.

Leadership on setting global standards for the development of new technology also provides American companies with a competitive advantage. Today, U.S. global leadership on a number of technologies, including advanced nanomaterials, computer chip design, and communications networks is in no small part due to the government-supported development of national and global standards.

Without U.S.-led standards, an obscure and ambiguous informational environment will chill investment in American companies and create additional hurdles for small tech businesses working to integrate their products in the sector. Worse yet, a lack of U.S. leadership in developing clear AI standards would create an international vacuum, allowing the EU, China or other economic rivals to develop rules of the road that become the de facto global standard, giving foreign companies an economic edge.

Support for the National AI Research Resource

Second, we ask that you support widespread access to AI tools and resources for researchers, academics, and entrepreneurs outside of Big Tech. Access to cutting-edge AI infrastructure and tools is often concentrated among large corporations with substantial resources. The large fixed costs associated with, for example, AI training compute or large data collection favors large incumbents. It is vital that we democratize access to these tools to empower the next wave of innovation.

The National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) aims to provide researchers and entrepreneurs with access to advanced AI systems, computing power, and data that would otherwise be out of reach. By supporting the successful execution of the pilot and a rigorous review of its outcomes, you can help ensure that future investments in AI research infrastructure are evidence-based, effective, and aligned with national innovation priorities. This approach will help determine the most efficient ways to foster innovation while maintaining an open and competitive AI ecosystem.

Building Tech Talent in Government

Third, we urge you to prioritize attracting, growing, and preserving tech talent in the federal government, specifically by creating pathways for people who build, utilize, and understand AI and emerging technology to contribute to President Trump's vision for a more efficient, modern, and tech-forward government.

Tech startups are often at the forefront of technological innovation, and their founders, engineers, and other key personnel bring valuable skills and perspectives that could greatly benefit government operations. By fostering greater collaboration between small tech and government, you can help ensure that government agencies leverage the best of what the private sector has to offer, driving efficiency and advancing U.S. leadership in emerging technologies.

Thank you for listening to the voices of AI entrepreneurs and leaders. We believe that with your leadership, the U.S. can continue to thrive as a global tech powerhouse, fostering innovation and ensuring that the benefits of these technologies are broadly shared. We would invite the opportunity for a meeting to discuss the innovation communities priorities on AI policy once the Trump Administration's work is underway.

We wish you the best of luck in your new roles, and we look forward to working together to shape the future of America's tech landscape.

Sincerely,

AI Innovators Alliance

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