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Hearing on: “Unleashing the Golden Age of Science: Examining the Priorities of the FY2027 Research
and Technology Enterprise”

Statement before the
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives

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Thank you, Chairman Babin, and Ranking Member Lofgren, for inviting me to speak to you today about the nation's science and technology enterprise and this administration's priorities.

In this 250th year of American innovation, we have been given the perfect opportunity to renew the material foundations of America's independence, security, and prosperity. Our economic leadership and technological dominance cannot be taken for granted in a rapidly changing world where the United States no longer stands alone as an industrial and scientific superpower. Unleashing a golden age of American science requires new focus and reforms.

Eighty-one years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt's Science Advisor Vannevar Bush published a report entitled "Science: The Endless Frontier," which organized America's national scientific enterprise for peacetime following the Second World War. Bush's vision established the Federal Government's role in supporting basic science, and was foundational to the broad-based prosperity of the American 20th Century.

But times and technologies have changed. Our moment calls for renewal of Bush's original intentions, to use the best tools, organizational theories, and systems thinking at our disposal to ensure that taxpayer supported science produces the largest returns possible for the benefit of all Americans.

In a new report to President Trump published just yesterday, entitled "Science: A New Golden Age," I articulate the obstacles American researchers face today, and the ways our scientific enterprise has fundamentally transformed since 1945.

The report, and a corresponding memorandum, provide policy guidance for Federal agencies to cement American scientific leadership for generations to come. I look forward to sharing these bipartisan and nonpartisan recommendations with the Committee today and finding opportunities to codify them in Congress.

First, the U.S. research system should prioritize the individual scientist over legacy institutions. Too much of our research enterprise has come to serve itself rather than the scientists within it. By supporting a broader range of performers, including a new generation of mission-driven research organizations, we can expand our scientific horizons.

Second, the Federal Government should reform and refocus how research dollars are allocated, distributed, and assessed. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, the government can deploy more flexible types of grants, including fast-track grants, long-horizon grants, and new mechanisms that allow reviewers to champion radically unconventional proposals.

Third, the Federal Government should set clear scientific goals and build the industrial muscle to translate scientific discovery into technological strength. Government must mobilize the full force of our enterprise around national challenges, clear the ground for American builders, and reunite the work of discovery and manufacturing across the country.

Fourth, the Federal Government must lead the way in preparing America's research enterprise to fully harness the artificial intelligence revolution. A year ago tomorrow, President Trump published America's AI Action Plan, laying out a blueprint for American dominance in the technology that increasingly defines our era. A main motivation in promoting American AI development is the belief that these tools can rapidly accelerate the progress of our scientific enterprise and so open new frontiers for American knowledge, industry, and quality of life.

The Genesis Mission is the crown jewel of American AI for science and already well underway. Just this morning, in a convening of science teams from across the Executive Branch, my office affirmed that the Genesis Mission will be the central hub for the entire Federal government to revolutionize the conduct of American science with AI. Joining DOE's ongoing efforts are initiatives from NSF, DOW, HHS, NASA, USDA, NIST, DHS, and DOT, mobilizing more than \$5 billion in total commitments to producing the premier AI for science ecosystem.

More than a whole-of-government project, we hope the Genesis Mission will grow into a whole-of-nation effort. Driving the partnership of government, academia, and industry, Genesis Mission grand challenges seek to directly address some of the hardest problems in research priority areas. Moreover, the pursuit of these grand challenges will inspire and test new AI methods and architectures, and so advance the capabilities of American AI itself.

Throughout our history, Americans have shown remarkable courage in our willingness to reinvent our institutions when the challenges we faced demanded it. Now it is our time to build the scientific enterprise that will carry America forward and create a New Golden Age of Science for the 21st century and beyond.

I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for hosting today's hearing, and I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you.