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June 16, 2026

The Honorable Brian Babin
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Babin and Ranking Member Lofgren,

On behalf of Scale AI, I write in strong support of the AI-Ready Federal Data Guidelines Act, introduced in the 119th Congress. This legislation takes a critical and practical step toward enabling the United States government to be a meaningful contributor to — and beneficiary of — the artificial intelligence revolution.

Scale AI's mission is to build reliable AI solutions for the world's most important decisions. Central to that mission is a fundamental truth that our work has reinforced time and again: the quality, structure, and accessibility of data are the foundational determinants of AI system performance. A model trained on poorly labeled, inconsistently formatted, or undocumented data will underperform regardless of its architectural sophistication. The federal government holds some of the most consequential datasets in the world — across health, energy, defense, transportation, and scientific research. Yet too much of that data remains difficult to interpret, inconsistently maintained, and practically inaccessible to AI systems that could put it to work for the American people.

This bill directly addresses that gap. By directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop voluntary guidelines on data formatting, labeling and annotation, quality evaluation, metadata standards, maintenance protocols, and automated access, the legislation provides a coherent, cross-agency framework for making government data AI-ready. Critically, it does so in a technology-neutral and sector-flexible way — recognizing that the needs of a biomanufacturing dataset differ from those of a satellite imagery archive. Scale AI has seen firsthand, through our work with federal agencies, how fragmented approaches to data

management create unnecessary friction, duplication of effort, and missed opportunities for AI systems to deliver value.

We are particularly encouraged by the bill's pilot program provisions. Focusing initial efforts on sectors with national security and industrial competitiveness implications reflects a sound prioritization of where the stakes are highest and where federal data assets are most concentrated. The requirement that pilots be time-limited, rigorously assessed, and designed with a transition pathway to non-federal entities reflects the kind of pragmatic, outcome-oriented policymaking that we believe is essential for AI governance to keep pace with the technology itself.

The United States is in a consequential competition with the People's Republic of China and other strategic rivals to lead in artificial intelligence. China has made the curation and weaponization of large-scale data a core element of its AI strategy. If the United States is to maintain its leadership, it cannot afford to leave its own vast public data reserves underutilized. The AI-Ready Federal Data Guidelines Act is a cost-effective, non-regulatory intervention that would meaningfully advance U.S. competitiveness without imposing mandates on the private sector.

Scale AI urges swift consideration and passage of this legislation. We stand ready to support NIST, Congress, and federal agencies as they implement these guidelines and look forward to continued partnership in building a data infrastructure worthy of American AI leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Fenkell', written in a cursive, stylized script.

Max Fenkell
Global Head of Policy and Government Relations
Scale AI