



COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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Statement by Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)

Artificial Intelligence – With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility

Chairman Smith: Often unknown to us, advances in artificial intelligence—or AI—touch many aspects of our lives. In the area of cybersecurity, AI reduces our reaction times to security threats. In the field of agriculture, AI monitors soil moisture and targets crop watering. And in the transportation lane, AI steers self-driving cars and manages intelligent traffic systems. Multiple technical disciplines including quantum computing science converge to form AI.

Tomorrow, the Science Committee will mark up the National Quantum Initiative Act, which establishes a federal program to accelerate quantum research and development. This is a bipartisan bill that Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson and I and others will introduce today. My hope is that every member of the committee will sponsor it.

Transforming our current quantum research into real world applications will create scientific and technological discoveries, especially in the field of artificial intelligence.

These discoveries will stimulate economic growth and improve our global competitiveness—important considerations in light of China's advances in artificial intelligence and quantum computing. By some accounts, China is investing \$7 billion in AI through 2030, and \$10 billion in quantum research.

The European Union also has issued a preliminary plan outlining a \$24 billion public-private investment in AI between 2018 and 2020. And Russian President Vladimir Putin has noted that “the leader in AI will ‘rule the world.’” No doubt that's appealing to him.

Yet, the Department of Defense's unclassified investment in AI was only \$600 million in 2016 while federal spending on quantum totals about \$250 million a year.

The committee will mark-up a second piece of legislation to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The bill directs NIST to continue supporting the development of artificial intelligence and data science including the development of machine learning and other artificial intelligence applications.

It is vital to our nation's future that we accelerate our quantum computing and AI efforts.

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