



December 11, 2017

The Honorable Roger Wicker, Chairman
The Honorable Brian Schatz, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Schatz:

In advance of your hearing on “Digital Decision-Making: The Building Blocks of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence,” I am writing to thank you for interest in and attention to the exciting innovation that is Artificial Intelligence (AI). ITI represents more than 60 of the world’s leading information and communications technology (ICT) companies. Our companies are the most dynamic and innovative companies from all corners of the ICT sector, including the development and deployment of AI. I submit this letter on behalf of ITI and its members, and respectfully request that you enter it into the hearing record.

Artificial intelligence (AI) technology is an integral part of our daily lives, work, and existence. It’s already made an important mark on much of our society and economy, and the exciting part is that we’re just seeing the beginning of its benefits.

Go to any hospital and medical research center and you will see how doctors and medical providers use AI to save lives. For example, the company Berg uses AI to analyze large amounts of oncological data to create a model of how pancreatic cancer functions, enabling us to develop chemotherapy to which cancer cells are more responsive.

Educators across the country use AI to enhance the potential for future generations to grow and learn. Thanks to IBM’s Teacher Advisor, a new tool based on its Watson cognitive computing platform, third-grade math teachers can develop personalized lesson plans. Teacher Advisor analyzes education standards, sets targets for skills development, and uses student data to help teachers tailor instructional material for students with varying skill levels.

AI also makes day-to-day of life easier – for everyone. Many of our everyday tasks, like making shopping lists and ordering groceries, are streamlined through devices like Alexa. And, through AI technology, researchers at the International Islamic University of Malaysia have developed the Automatic Sign Language Translator (ASLT) that uses machine learning to interpret sign language and convert it into text, easing communications for many.

We know AI will revolutionize the way we do business and our overall economy. It’s projected AI will add between \$7.1 trillion and \$13.17 trillion to the global economy by 2025.¹

¹ <https://www.itic.org/resources/AI-Policy-Principles-FullReport2.pdf>



There's no question AI will continue to transform our lives, society, and economy for the better. We understand, however, that there are many questions about this technology and that with transformative innovation, there are going to be points of tension. The tech industry is committed to working with all stakeholders to identify and resolve challenges.

In conjunction with the global leaders in AI innovation, ITI recently published [AI Policy Principles](#). These principles are designed to be guidelines for the responsible development and deployment of AI as we develop partnerships with governments, academia, and the public.

Our Policy Principles are a conversation catalyst, encouraging all stakeholders, public and private, to collaborate to create smart policies that allow this emerging technology to flourish while addressing the complex issues that arise out of its growth and deployment. Given the reach of AI, we think this kind of partnership and engagement is critical to advance the benefits and responsible growth of AI while also endeavoring to answer the public's questions about the use of this nascent technology.

We look forward to working with this Committee, other members of Congress, academia, industry partners, and the public to advance AI responsibly. Thank you, again, for holding the timely and important hearing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Garfield", is positioned above the typed name.

Dean Garfield
President and CEO
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)