

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of**

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Ranking Member Doris Matsui

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Hearing on “AI in the Everyday: Current Applications and Future Frontiers in Communications and Technology”

June 4, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Hudson. I’m glad we’re holding this hearing today, as connectivity and artificial intelligence go hand in hand. Already, AI is a part of our everyday lives— from improving GPS driving directions to extending the battery life of our cellphones and preventing network outages. As AI evolves, it will transform how we communicate— improving network resiliency, defending against cyberattacks, and supercharging connectivity for consumers and businesses.

To realize AI’s full potential—and ensure AI benefits us all, not just the few—we must act with urgency to close the digital divide by investing in the infrastructure and skilled workforce that underpin AI’s success. Unfortunately, the Trump administration would rather pay lip service to American AI leadership than act. The reality is they are undermining this exact goal by: derailing our AI supply chain with tariffs, gutting our AI talent pipeline by attacking universities and slashing research dollars, and weakening our AI infrastructure by freezing federal broadband funding.

Universal connectivity is the building block for universal AI access. This includes the fiber networks that provide reliable, scalable, and high-speed connections for AI applications to process large amounts of data. To achieve this, we must act quickly, and fully, carry out our federal broadband programs to connect the tens of millions of Americans who still lack access to high-speed internet.

That’s why I’m alarmed that the President continues to sabotage the \$42 billion Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment, or BEAD, program. BEAD is a once-in-a-generation investment from Congress to expand affordable broadband. States are at the one-yard line, ready to reach the end zone and get shovels in the ground.

But for almost six months, the Trump administration has put BEAD on ice, blocking our states from connecting more Americans. All while threatening to waste even more time with rule changes that would undo the work our states have already accomplished.

To make matters worse, President Trump is weakening our AI workforce through his cancellation of nearly \$3 billion in Digital Equity grants. Congress established these grants, with bipartisan support, to provide communities with the digital literacy skills, training, and technology to reap the full benefits of online access.

President Trump's attack on digital equity funds, including trying to cancel California's \$70 million grant, is leaving behind our most vulnerable communities – including rural Americans, seniors, Americans with disabilities, and veterans.

This is unacceptable. To be the global AI leader, America also must lead on setting common sense guardrails for responsible and safe AI. Otherwise, we will harm innovation by damaging consumer trust and weakening protections for a fair, open, and competitive playing field where AI technologies flourish.

I have long championed policies that advance U.S. leadership in AI and other emerging technologies. This includes strengthening AI infrastructure, from fiber and wireless connectivity to our semiconductor supply chain. I've also worked to preserve our states' roles as laboratories of democracy, to provide us critical insight on AI policies where innovation and competition thrive alongside common-sense safeguards.

Now is the time to learn from our states and work on bipartisan solutions to advance innovation and empower all Americans to access the benefits of AI. That's why the ten-year AI state moratorium that my Republican colleagues jammed through in their reconciliation bill is so misguided and dangerous.

We can't afford a ten-year hold on our states' ability to identify and protect the American people from AI-specific harms. Not when AI is developing rapidly and spreading to all parts of our lives. And especially not without strong federal AI guardrails in place.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about how we can strengthen our AI leadership.

And with that, I yield the balance of my time...