WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MANISH BHATIA
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BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
"Converting Energy into Intelligence: The Future of AI Technology, Human Discovery, and American Global Competitiveness"

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Opening

Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, and members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the significant growth in electricity demand in the United States, and how this coincides with American competitiveness and the future of AI. Expanding U.S. energy production and improving electric power transmission are vital to ensuring America's AI technology leadership, manufacturing renaissance, and the future of the American economy all in parallel. I am honored to be here today to share Micron's insights into both the opportunities and risks that we face as demand for electricity grows.

My name is Manish Bhatia, and I serve as the Executive Vice President for Global Operations at Micron Technology, the only American manufacturer of memory and storage semiconductor solutions.

Micron is building new large-scale semiconductor factories, or "fabs" as we call them, that will manufacture leading-edge memory chips in two states, Idaho and New York. Micron is also planning efforts to modernize and add new capabilities to our existing facility in Virginia, which makes chips used by the U.S. defense industrial base, the automotive sector, and a diverse range of other customers. Micron plans to invest approximately $50 billion in capex for leading-edge American memory manufacturing through 2030 and more than $100 billion over the next 20 years.

In order to support a rapidly growing market for memory (by several estimates, the global memory market will grow to more than $300 billion annually by 2030), our U.S. expansion will include a leading-edge R&D and manufacturing center in Boise, Idaho, a megafab in Clay, New York, and a modernization and expansion of our site in Manassas, Virginia. Our investments will create 11,000 direct Micron jobs, 9,000 construction jobs, and tens of thousands of additional indirect jobs, ultimately creating 80,000 jobs across our expansion locations.

The U.S. is on the cusp of a manufacturing renaissance, breakthroughs in AI and other technologies, meanwhile, are driving increasing demand for data centers thanks to business and tax incentives passed by Congress and President Trump. While this manufacturing resurgence and AI leadership are both vital for America's national security and economic security, the demand for electricity is expected to grow faster than it has in decades. The U.S. will not be able to meet this projected demand unless it expands electrical generation capacity and modernizes the nation's electrical grid for all these planned projects.

About Micron Technology

Micron plays a vital role in the semiconductor ecosystem. Micron was founded more than 46 years ago in Boise, Idaho, as a four-person technology startup working out of the basement of a dental office. Today, Micron is a world-leading designer, developer, and manufacturer of memory and storage products that employs more than 50,000 people worldwide and has operations in 18 countries. We are one of the world's most innovative companies with over 58,000 U.S. patents.

Micron serves customers across many industries, ranging from aerospace and defense to data centers and automobiles. I am confident that if you look inside the phones, computers, TVs, and other devices that Members

of the Committee use every day, you would find Micron chips. We estimate that half of all cars in America have a Micron chip made nearby in Manassas, Virginia. As a Michigan native and having started my career in the auto industry, it's an honor to have the responsibility to lead the global team responsible for manufacturing the leading-edge memory chips that are used by all auto manufacturers.

Why Memory Matters

I know that President Trump, Congress and many Members of this Committee have been focused on the value and importance of ensuring a strong U.S. supply chain for semiconductor manufacturing, maintaining America's semiconductor leadership for more than five years. There is a widespread recognition in Congress that the U.S. needs to produce more leading-edge logic chips—the types of chips that serve as the processors for computers, phones, and other devices.

But it is equally important that the U.S. reclaim leadership in manufacturing memory chips, the type of chip that Micron manufactures. Memory and storage account for 60% of advanced semiconductor production by volume, and they also account for almost 40% of industry sales. Memory, which is how information is stored, is essential to all aspects of modern technology. Without memory, computers, phones, data centers, airplanes, medical devices, and other technologies would not be able to store or process information. There would be no data on which to train AI systems. The United States government—from the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community to NASA—cannot operate advanced satellite communications without massive memory banks needed to accumulate data and relay it back to Earth. Without memory, Members of this Committee would not be able to record videos or text, and there would be no data centers on which to store digital records of America's laws. Simply put, without memory, there is no AI.

Today, while the U.S. continues to lead in semiconductor R&D and design, the U.S. only manufactures about 12% of chips globally. But when we talk about manufacturing memory, that percentage is even lower. Less than 2% of the world's memory chips are manufactured in the U.S.—all of them at our facility in Manassas, Virginia. Almost all of the rest of the world's memory is manufactured in Asia, making memory chips vulnerable to potential geopolitical events and supply chain disruptions.

Micron's Technology Leadership

Micron is a world leader in memory technology, and America's memory manufacturing champion for the digital ecosystem. Micron's memory products include dynamic random-access memory (DRAM), an advanced type of memory, which Micron will manufacture in the United States at our planned fab expansion projects, as well as non-volatile storage memory NAND and NOR, as well as legacy dynamic random-access memory (DRAM), which remain important products for many American customers and computing applications.

Micron also manufactures High Bandwidth Memory, or HBM, which is an innovative product that is essential for AI and other high performance computing applications. Micron's HBM3E is the fastest, and lowest power high bandwidth memory product available across the industry. It is what enables today's generative AI models and allows these models to break through the data bottlenecks they face.

Our chips are increasingly energy-efficient, one of our key competitive advantages. This allows our customers, from data centers to automakers to smartphone users, to have greater operating capacity for the same, or less, electricity use. After making strong energy efficiency gains for our HBM3E chip by reducing power demand by more than 50% relative to our previous HBM2E chip, we estimate that our advanced chips are 30% more efficient than our competitor chips. For a data center customer with a 10,000-GPU data center using Micron chips, this means significant power savings compared to competitor chips, and would translate to the equivalent energy reduction of hundreds of U.S. households just for one data center.

Global Competitiveness and U.S. Semiconductor Manufacturing

America's semiconductor manufacturers operate in a highly global and intensely competitive environment. This environment evolved not just from the investment decisions and innovation from companies, but also from a variety of policies and tools developed by countries around the world to incubate and grow semiconductor supply chains, manufacturing, and R&D.

For the U.S. to remain competitive in semiconductor manufacturing, it is vital for the government to understand where we're starting from and what tools can be deployed to even the playing field. The cost gap between constructing a fab in the United States can be 35-45% higher than building a similar fab in Asia.

This cost gap largely comes down to a few factors, all of which are addressable by the government: **1) supporting greater semiconductor for R&D and manufacturing by extending and expanding the semiconductor investment tax credit (48D) (ITC); 2) addressing duplicative codes and policies that delay construction without providing any meaningful increase in safety or environmental protection; 3) ensuring policies keep energy prices down through increased generating capacity, and updating and expanding transmission infrastructure through permitting reform; and 4) increasing federal investments in workers and upskilling to ensure the industry has the workforce it needs.**

Before the U.S. took steps to incentivize domestic chip manufacturing, heavy overseas subsidies created a significant cost disparity in which **it now costs 35-45% more to build and operate a fab in U.S. than abroad**. As a result of this disparity, the U.S. share of global fabrication capacity **declined from 37% in 1990 to 10% in 2022.**

According to reports, as a result of inflationary pressures from the pandemic, for large-scale construction projects in the United States today costs have increased across the board. Construction costs have gone up by as much as 30-40% just since 2020, while labor costs have risen 20-35% due to increased spending in manufacturing and energy sectors. In addition, bulk material costs such as those for concrete and steel have increased by 45-60%, and equipment prices have increased 35-50% due to global supply chain disruptions. These all represent significant challenges for sectors wishing to expand their U.S. manufacturing footprint, including the semiconductor industry.

<u>Supporting the Advanced Manufacturing Investment Credit</u> (IRC §48D)
Because these inflationary pressures have increased the cost gap between the United States and other markets, the advanced manufacturing investment credits has become even more critical to maintain America's manufacturing competitiveness and AI leadership. The advanced manufacturing investment credit (IRC §48D) has helped reverse the decades-long decline in U.S. semiconductor manufacturing capacity, with the U.S. now projected to triple its manufacturing capacity between 2022 and 2032.[1] However, this credit is expiring, threatening the ability to make additional, sustained, long-term investments to meet market demand and increase America's chipmaking capacity and expand U.S. semiconductor exports. **It is critical for the IRC §48D tax credit to be expanded for at least 5 years and increased to 35%; this will secure the $500 billion+ semiconductor investments[2] by semiconductor companies such as ours and will generate further investments for years to come.**

<u>Addressing Duplicative Regulations While Maintaining Critical Safeguards</u>
With respect to building and construction codes and associated environment laws, the biggest driver of delays for economic development projects like our projects in the United States have been the environmental review

[1] Semiconductor Industry Association. Winning the Chip Race. 2025, p. 8. https://www.semiconductors.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SIA_WINNING-THE-CHIP-RACE_2025.pdf.
[2] Semiconductor Industry Association. SIA Comments on Reciprocal Trade Practices. 2025. https://www.semiconductors.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SIA-Comments-Reciprocal-Trade-Practices-03-11-25.pdf.

process. For example, for our four-fab project in Central New York, Micron is the only semiconductor company that must undergo an environmental impact statement mandated by both federal and state laws while other semiconductor companies in other states have been exempted from federal environmental reviews or must only complete federal environmental assessments with shorter timelines.

New York is one of a handful of states with a more stringent state environmental review than the federal NEPA process. The failure to address the duplicative federal and state environmental process requirements has delayed our NY project by two years and increased costs for Micron across the board.

Promising legislation may address this thorny issue. The Infrastructure Project Acceleration Act led by Reps. Langworthy and Collins will give the lead federal agency the ability to ensure that critical environmental protections have been thoroughly considered before expediting the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for projects such as ours while maintaining state-level regulations, and would cover only states with more stringent environmental reviews than NEPA, including California, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Indiana, North Carolina, and Georgia.

There has been an additional burden with the number of federal and state inconsistencies in the application of Supreme Court rulings. The Administration's reconsideration of the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (PM 2.5) is positive as this rule, as currently implemented, limits opportunities for American manufacturing.

And to be clear, we comply with safety and environmental laws in other locations in Asia, but these laws from our experience seem to be more streamlined, and with less duplication among national and local laws.

Additionally, there are notable differences between the United States and building codes in Asia, particularly in the context of semiconductor fabrication facilities. For example, the US FAB Construction Limitations - Code Environmental 2025-02-19 document highlights that the International Building Code (IBC) in the United States restricts the number of building stories above ground to four stories above ground, whereas Taiwan does not limit the number of stories in a semiconductor fabrication facility. Similarly, there are no restrictions on building height above ground in Taiwan, while the United States' H-5 Occupancy restricts it to 160 feet. Additionally, Taiwan allows for basement levels, whereas the US's H-5 Occupancy requires all levels to be above ground. While these distinctions may seem obscure, they can significantly impact how quickly and cost-effectively we can expand our U.S. footprint.

Maintaining America's Competitive Edge in Energy Pricing and Reliability

Finally, it is critically important that the federal government act to protect one of America's strongest competitive advantages compared to other markets in Asia: reliable power at affordable prices. **This advantage is critical, as energy is the second highest input cost for semiconductor fabs, after labor costs**.

As I will note in my testimony below, U.S. power prices have historically been a key strength in manufacturing, with power prices typically between one-half and one-third the price of energy in Asian markets. This is due to an abundance of domestic energy resources that many Asian countries lack, such as hydropower, natural gas supply, expanded carbon-free sources, and a stable nuclear fleet. **The United States must maintain this key competitive advantage by building out generating capacity to meet the expected short-term surge in energy demand after 20 years of flat growth. It must also improve transmission infrastructure through permitting reform to ensure that this new generating capacity can actually get to the manufacturers, small businesses, and consumers that will need it.**

Addressing Workforce Needs

With the evolution of AI in the workplace and shifting worker demand, the U.S. also needs to continue to invest in training tomorrow's workforce and upskilling the existing workforce to best position our industry's talent

pipeline. At current rates, the U.S. will not keep up with demand for skilled workers in the semiconductor industry — including for the construction of new fabs — and among all critical technology sectors.[3]

Addressing this shortfall requires a comprehensive approach. More must be done to encourage U.S. students to: 1) pursue education and training in critical areas for the industry; 2) engage in semiconductor-related research and pursue advanced degrees in larger numbers; and 3) choose the semiconductor industry over other competing technology fields.[4]

For upskilling, the federal government should continue to invest in upskilling existing workforces through the National Science Foundation, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Labor. Micron, for example, is proud of our work to upskill our own workers, with a particular focus on veterans. More programs like ours should be incentivized so companies can do their part to train tomorrow's semiconductor workforce.

Micron's Expansion

With our historic U.S. investments and expansion, we expect that these fabs will produce as much as 40% of Micron's DRAM chips here in the United States, create 80,000 jobs across the country, strengthen U.S. and national security, and cement Micron as a leader in American innovation.

There are many reasons we chose Central New York for our high-volume production, where we are poised to build as many as four fabs. When we were exploring sites for our new fabs, we considered several elements across 28 potential U.S. sites, including: the ability to partner with excellent universities and community colleges to train our workforce; a 1,400-acre site that fit our needs for a megafab site based on the growing global market demand for memory; and easy access to abundant water supplies. All of these were critical factors in the ultimate selection of Clay.

But **access to reliable, affordable, carbon-free electricity was also a key factor. Consistent power is crucial for fabs that will operate around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We cannot afford to suffer even a fraction of a second of electricity loss because outages would cost Micron tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars of production at any given time**. Any drop in power forces us to reset equipment and check for inconsistencies or deviations on the work in progress, which can take days or weeks to fix and slow or halt production. And when we slow down, so do our customers, ultimately leading to supply chain disruptions and shipment delays of the phones, autos, and the systems powered by our memory.

We estimate that each of our fabs will use approximately 400MW, or the equivalent of power to an estimated 300,000 homes. Micron will need that level of power even after we implement a variety of energy-saving controls across our manufacturing operations.

This demand comes from the more than 1,500 processing steps required that take the base silicon wafer (which is made from crystalline sand) into the amazing chips that power our world. These processes take place in high purity clean rooms with precise climate and particle control systems, advanced precision tools including the world's most advanced Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) lasers to create the nano-scale features for our advanced chips.

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[3] Semiconductor Industry Association. Winning the Chip Race. 2025, p. 8. https://www.semiconductors.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SIA_WINNING-THE-CHIP-RACE_2025.pdf.

[4] Semiconductor Industry Association. Winning the Chip Race. 2025, p. 8. https://www.semiconductors.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SIA_WINNING-THE-CHIP-RACE_2025.pdf.

Micron's Domestic Energy Efforts

Given the size and profile of our energy load, as well as our proximity to the Nine Mile Point and Fitzpatrick Nuclear Stations in upstate New York, we support efforts to expand nuclear generating capacity to meet the needs of our expansions as well as other customers and ratepayers in the region. We were pleased to be able to reach an agreement with the local power operator in New York to guarantee us the initial electricity we need at an affordable rate.

In addition to our efforts to ensure that our future fabs in New York conserve energy, we have also **honed our operations and manufacturing processes to increase energy efficiency** at our fab in Boise by improving wafer throughput per kilowatt hour, implementing smart controls and "eco-mode" on our process steps, and reducing use of auxiliary equipment like pumps and chillers. We also seek to reduce the electricity our tools use and give our process engineers visibility on electricity consumption data using smart controls and real-time data. **These efforts allowed us to reduce our Boise facility's electricity consumption in 2024 by 8.6 million kilowatt hours—equivalent to removing 1,400 cars from the road,** according to the U.S. EPA**.** Micron also recently announced a partnership with Schneider Electric, a global leader in digital transformation of energy management and automation, to enable strategic collaboration across sustainable development, smart manufacturing, and carbon management.

Micron does not just try to save power across our own manufacturing and business operations. The chips we manufacture all require power to operate, and Micron has taken steps over the years to improve power efficiency in our chips. Our current industry-leading 1β (1-beta) technology provides a 15% power savings over our previous technology, 1α (1-alpha). Whether through our policies or products, in our past, our present, and our future—Micron is a leader in taking steps to increase energy efficiency.

Energy and the Future Demand from Data Centers, AI, and Manufacturing

Under both Republican and Democratic administrations and Congresses, the federal government has recognized that winning the leadership race in AI is a priority for our country's economic strength and national security. Likewise, the United States has become the world's hub for data centers, many of which are developed by our customers: the amount of data capacity in northern Virginia alone is greater than the entire data center capacity of Europe or China.[5] This is due to the fact that hyperscalers, the most important large scale cloud service providers for computing and storage at enterprise scale, maintain a significant position in the region. Northern Virginia alone accounts for approximately 13% of global data center capacity, and nearly 40% of global hyperscaler storage capacity.[6]

Additionally, the demands of AI have only grown as the scale of AI's potential has become more firmly integrated in products from phones and cars to medical devices. The level of computing power required to power AI has exploded as the growth in AI has exceeded initial expectations; in the last 5 years, generative AI models have gone from 1.5 billion parameters (the adjustable values within a model during training) to more than 100 billion as tasks have become increasingly complex and uses have accelerated rapidly.

The U.S. is also undergoing a manufacturing renaissance as both Republicans and Democrats have recognized the importance of securing local domestic production in supply chains to improve resilience. By the end of last year, manufacturing as a value-added output of the U.S. economy rose to nearly $3 trillion and represented 10% of the

[5] Synergy. Virginia Still Has More Hyperscale Data Center Capacity Than Either Europe or China. September 2022. https://www.srgresearch.com/articles/virginia-still-has-more-hyperscale-data-center-capacity-than-either-europe-or-china.
[6] Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission of Virginia. Data Centers in Virginia. 2024. https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2024-data-centers-in-virginia.asp#:~:text=Northern%20Virginia%20is%20the%20largest,of%20capacity%20in%20the%20Americas.

total value-added output for the entire economy. Additionally, for every $1 spent in manufacturing in the United States, the total return to the U.S. economy is nearly $2.70.[7]

Combined, these trends mean the U.S. must plan for unprecedented growth in modern electricity demand: data centers, AI, and manufacturing are all highly energy-intensive industries, and their explosive growth in the last few years has had a significant impact on both U.S. and global electricity demand projections.

In Virginia, electricity utility Dominion estimates that power demand for the state will double in the next 15 years and annual demand growth will exceed 5%, with data centers being the largest contributor to this demand growth.[8] Nationally, we may see a 15% increase in demand over the next 5 years, the equivalent of more than 90 million homes in the same period.

The Government Must Act as Energy Demands Rise

This bring me to a stark point that I need to make: meeting this growth will require major shifts in how the U.S. thinks about both power generation and power transmission, especially after years of largely flat power demand in the United States. At this point, the U.S. is not on track to keep pace with projected demand, and unless the U.S. makes substantial policy shifts, access to affordable and reliable power will begin constraining America's manufacturing renaissance, data center growth, and technological leadership. **Investments in energy-intensive industries, such as semiconductor manufacturing, may even become uncompetitive or even unviable unless action is taken now.**

The U.S. government needs to make sure that it can permit **both** the power generation and the power transmission facilities that will be required to meet this demand.

Generation: With respect to power generation, future electricity demand is likely to outpace existing generation capacity. With as much as 128 GW of projected future demand over the next 5 years, the U.S. government needs to take an all-of-the-above approach to ensure that power generating capacity can continue to outpace demand and keep electricity prices low for customers and competitive for manufacturers like Micron.

To address this challenge, the federal government needs to pursue strong and growing federal investment in electricity-generating capacity through targeted incentives such as subsidies and tax breaks, honed to expand capacity and increasing support for R&D in new and promising technology developments. This means expanding nuclear power, investing in cutting-edge technologies, including battery and storage innovation, looking to advances in natural gas and LNG, exploring large projects in zero-emission energy, and removing red tape across the energy ecosystem.

We do not have the luxury to debate which energy resource is better; we need them all – at low cost. The government needs to explore an **all-of-the-above approach** with electricity generation because rising demand from industry and consumers gives us no other option if we want to address our manufacturing needs and keep costs low for consumers and industry.

This also includes the equipment needed to turn energy resources into the electricity used by manufacturers, data centers, and consumers. For example, expanded natural gas exploration will not lower domestic prices if there are production bottlenecks for gas turbines and other equipment necessary for generating electricity from that natural gas. Indeed, public reporting has indicated that orders of U.S.-company manufactured gas turbines are likely to be

[7] National Association of Manufacturers. Facts About Manufacturing. 2024. https://nam.org/manufacturing-in-the-united-states/facts-about-manufacturing-expanded/.
[8] Data Center Dynamics. Dominion Energy Outlines Long Term Strategy for Virginia Power Infrastructure. 2024. https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/dominion-energy-outlines-long-term-strategy-for-virginia-power-infrastructure/.

sold out through the end of 2028 within just a few months, after demand increased 5-fold last year. The lessons from America's experiences in critical materials supply chains have made this clear: **every step of the energy ecosystem needs greater resilience, supply, and investment, and bottlenecks must be addressed swiftly.**

Transmission: With respect to power transmission, Micron is unfortunately very familiar with the extensive regulatory delays that have slowed the transmission of existing generating capacity to businesses and consumers. With constrained transmission infrastructure in the northwest, Micron has looked to the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) transmission line as a promising opportunity to provide critically needed electricity from Oregon to Idaho. This line would provide Idaho with up to 500 MW of affordable, reliable power from the Pacific Northwest in the summer, when a surplus of energy is available there.

However, the B2H project, which began in late 2006, still has not been constructed as developers await federal permitting approval. For nearly 20 years, this potential generating capacity has languished in Oregon with permitting costs now exceeding $220 million – all while customers in Idaho, such as Micron, are expanding our presence with energy demands are only expected to grow.
This type of delay is unacceptable and severely undermines our nation's ability to rebuild U.S. manufacturing to support resilient businesses and growing communities, as well as to meet our nation's AI leadership goals. These delays drive up the cost of electricity, making the United States a less competitive destination for companies like ours.

Changing this process through permitting reform is fundamentally important for this Congress to address. Decades of delays in infrastructure are now running up against massive increases in electricity demand. This is leading to escalating electricity costs and a weakening of America's position in manufacturing and AI, all of which are undesirable outcomes. We were encouraged last year by strong bipartisan, bicameral calls for permitting reform, particularly by Senators Barrasso and Manchin, and we look forward to continuing these efforts in this Congress. **But if electricity demand is going to rise by more than 100GW in the next 5 years, and double in key markets such as Virginia, this cannot be an issue to address in the next Congress, or 5 to 10 years down the line. This issue needs to be addressed right now.**

Above all, Micron supports efforts that ensure affordable and reliable electricity –permitting reform that utilizes all avenues to support the growth of domestic manufacturing, improving reliability of the grid, maintaining low electricity costs, standardizing the definition of renewable at all levels of government, and investing in additional carbon-free energy sources such as nuclear.

With Micron committed to regulatory compliance and protecting the environment, we also recommend actions to reduce permitting burdens related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), specifically unnecessary and duplicative state and federal environmental review processes, as noted above. Doing so would help speed up implementation of economic development investments, like Micron's, and ensure every federal dollar is well-spent, while also continuing to protect the environment through compliance with other applicable environmental regulations.

Conclusion

In closing, I will leave you with this: Micron's main product is memory chips, and memory is an intensely competitive business, and is at the very core of AI. **Therefore, Micron's access to low-priced, reliable power is fundamental to Micron's ability to compete globally and even domestically as the only U.S. semiconductor manufacturer of memory.**

Micron is expanding its capacity in the United States to meet a growing global demand for advanced memory chips. With growing demands from AI-enabled technologies, Micron is now ramping up to meet peak demand in the coming years. We have been planning for years to meet this demand in the latter part of the decade. We would

appreciate support from Congress and the U.S. government in ensuring a competitive environment to meet the domestic demand.

It is imperative that the whole of the federal government plan address the electricity demands of the data-driven economy of today and tomorrow, so that the United States can preserve its competitive advantage. **This means expanding and extending tax credits like the semiconductor investment tax credit (ITC) (48D)**, supporting programs across-the-board that are generating energy capacity and reforming our transmission infrastructure permitting processes to get new capacity online as quickly as possible.

Without addressing these issues now, America's manufacturing renaissance and AI leadership will both become deeply uncertain. Let us take this opportunity to work together and meet the demands of today and the future.

Thank you.