



Committee: House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
Event: [AI in the Everyday: Current Applications and Future Frontiers in Communications and Technology](#)
Date: June 4, 2025
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

Member Toplines:

[Chair Richard Hudson \(R-NC-09\)](#): Hudson highlighted the growing demand for artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure. He stressed the importance of maintaining U.S. leadership in AI development amid rising global competition. Hudson concluded by calling for a supportive regulatory environment to foster innovation.

*Ranking Member Doris Matsui (D-CA-07)*¹: Matsui argued the U.S. must invest in broadband infrastructure and a skilled AI workforce. She criticized the administration for undermining AI leadership through tariffs, cuts to research and education, and delays to major broadband deployment and digital equity programs. She also opposed a proposed 10-year moratorium on state AI regulation, arguing that federal and state collaboration is essential to safely and responsibly advance AI innovation.

Full Committee Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02): Guthrie noted AI's growing presence in everyday life and stressed the importance of continued U.S. leadership in AI development. He warned against ceding ground to China and criticized Europe's regulatory approach as overly burdensome.

[Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone \(D-NJ-06\)](#): Pallone criticized House Republicans for passing a 10-year ban on state enforcement of AI laws, calling it a giveaway to Big Tech with no federal safeguards ready to replace them. He emphasized the importance of building out broadband infrastructure to support access to AI, accusing the administration of stalling key programs like the [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#) and defunding the *Digital Equity Act*.

Witness Toplines:

[Chip Pickering, Chief Executive Officer, INCOMPAS](#): Pickering emphasized the need for a national AI policy framework to ensure U.S. leadership and avoid a patchwork of state regulations. He called for speeding up infrastructure development through permitting reform and closing the digital divide.

¹The opening remarks by Subcommittee Ranking Member Matsui and Full Committee Chair Guthrie were not available at the time of this memo's distribution.

[Ronnie Vasishta, Senior Vice President of Telecom, Nvidia](#): Vasishta stressed the importance of public-private collaboration, supporting R&D, and setting global standards to maintain U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

[Jim Shea, Chief Executive Officer, DeepSig, Inc.](#): Shea emphasized how DeepSig's AI-powered wireless software improves 5G performance by optimizing spectrum management and enabling rapid sensing of wireless signals for both commercial and defense applications. He highlighted AI's role in countering threats and enhancing spectrum sharing.

[Asad Ramzanali, Director of AI and Technology Policy, Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator, Vanderbilt University](#): Ramzanali cautioned against a federal moratorium that would override existing state AI protections, advocating instead for balanced federal policies that both promote innovation and safeguard people. He also called for renewed efforts on privacy, digital equity, and AI guardrails.

Major Takeaways:

- Pickering criticized the European Union's permission-based approach to AI regulation, arguing that it has driven investment to the U.S. He advocated for the U.S. to maintain its light-touch, risk-based regulatory model to foster innovation and competition. Pickering warned that adopting a European-style framework could entrench the power of large tech firms and stifle new entrants.
- Several Democrats strongly opposed the House passed 10-year moratorium on state AI regulation enforcement, arguing it strips states of vital consumer protections without providing federal safeguards. They framed the moratorium as benefiting Big Tech.
 - Following his criticism of the 10-year moratorium, Rep. **Scott Peters** (D-CA-52) expressed support for a national AI standard, combining the best elements of existing state laws, to avoid regulatory chaos across states and localities.
 - Rep. **Nanette Barragan** (D-CA-44) warned that the moratorium would prevent states from acting quickly on AI-related public safety concerns. Ramzanali agreed and pointed to emergency systems as areas where underregulated AI deployment could cost lives.
 - Pickering defended the moratorium as a means to prevent a patchwork of state laws. He rejected claims that the moratorium blocks consumer protections or favors Big Tech, stating existing civil and criminal laws remain enforceable and that startups, not tech giants, benefit most from a uniform national framework.
 - Rep. **Jay Obernolte** (D-CA-23) argued the moratorium enhances competition by lowering entry barriers.
 - Ramzanali praised California's efforts to balance innovation with risk mitigation and supported well-crafted state laws targeting deepfakes, scams, and transparency. He emphasized that responsible innovation can coexist with regulation aimed at curbing harm.
- Rep. **Julie Fedorchak** (R-ND-AL) expressed concern about whether the U.S. energy system can meet AI's power demands, while Guthrie emphasized the need for the U.S. to generate more energy and to improve the efficiency of current systems.

- Vasishta explained that energy efficiency in AI begins with chip design. NVIDIA's move from traditional CPU computing to accelerated computing has significantly improved performance per watt, enabling more efficient energy use across AI systems. However, he emphasized that the scale of AI deployment will still require more energy overall.
 - Pickering said that fiber capacity to data centers is projected to grow sixfold in the next five years. He explained how new fiber routes have triggered tens of billions in data center investments and driven economic growth.
- Rep. **John Joyce** (R-PA-13) argued the permitting process is slowing down data center development in Pennsylvania. He called for comprehensive permitting reform to speed deployment and remain competitive with China.
 - Pickering warned that the U.S. is falling behind China in the race to build out AI infrastructure because of regulatory delays. He noted that China does not face the type of permitting roadblocks that slow progress in the U.S. such as overlapping agency reviews and outdated procedures. He advocated for a national permitting framework across energy and AI infrastructure.
 - Pickering offered the following suggestions to reform permitting: Replace duplicative agency reviews with a single environmental review process; allow prior environmental reviews to apply to similar future projects if nothing substantive has changed; create permitting corridors for long fiber routes between urban and rural areas and make those routes eligible under the BEAD program; and treat data center infrastructure as essential to drive future manufacturing and economic growth.
 - Rep. **Erin Houchin** (R-IN-09) echoed support for these reforms. She added the importance of using renewable energy, including small modular nuclear reactors, to power AI and advocated for classifying AI infrastructure as strategic assets eligible for fast-tracked permitting.
- Rep. **Rob Menendez** (D-NJ-08) raised concerns about the government using sensitive personal data in the age of AI, asking whether stronger consumer protections are needed as AI tools grow more powerful.
 - Ramzanali agreed stronger consumer protections are needed. He argued that while the 1970's *Privacy Act* introduced some safeguards, modern standards limiting what data is collected, stored, processed, and linked should be adopted more broadly to better protect individuals.