



Committee: House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade

Event: [American Global Competitiveness at 250: Legislative Proposals to Secure U.S. Technology Leadership](#)

Date: June 30, 2026

Executive Summary:

On June 30, 2026, the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade held a hearing to discuss legislation related to maintaining U.S. technology leadership.

- Members across both parties agreed that maintaining U.S. leadership in artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced manufacturing requires sustained investment in domestic capacity, stronger supply chains, and updated federal policy frameworks.
- Republicans pointed to industrial competitiveness and regulatory standardization as key pillars to support innovation. They also discussed reducing supply chain vulnerabilities, restricting adversarial access to critical technologies, and expanding domestic semiconductor and AI infrastructure.
- Democrats stressed the importance of sustained federal research investment, consumer protections, environmental accountability, and ensuring that competitiveness strategies do not weaken international partnerships or undermine scientific collaboration.

Considered Legislation:

- PROTECT USA Act of 2025 ([H.R. 9385](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Scott Fitzgerald** (R-WI-05)
- National Commission on Robotics Act ([H.R. 7334](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Jay Obernolte** (R-CA-23)
- United States Leadership in Immersive Technology Act of 2025 ([H.R. 2321](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Suzan DelBene** (D-WA-01)
- Chip EQUIP Act ([H.R. 6207](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA-18)
- Open-Source AI Leadership Act ([H.R.](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Gabe Evans** (R-CO-08)
- American Quantum Competitiveness Act ([H.R.](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Nick Langworthy** (R-NY-23)
- Biomanufacturing Excellence, Domestic Resilience, Output, and Competitive Know-How Act ([H.R.](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Bob Latta** (R-OH-05)
- Biosecurity Modernization and Innovation Act ([H.R.](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **August Pfluger** (R-TX-11)
- Memory Chip Competitiveness Assessment Act ([H.R.](#))
 - Sponsored by Rep. **Mariannette Miller-Meeks** (R-IA-01)
- Automotive National and Economic Security Act of 2026 ([H.R.](#))

- Sponsored by Rep. **Diana Harshbarger** (R-TN-01)

Member Toplines¹:

[Subcommittee Chair Gus Bilirakis \(R-FL-09\)](#): Bilirakis emphasized that maintaining U.S. leadership in AI is essential to American economic competitiveness. He warned that the U.S. risks falling behind global competitors due to ongoing semiconductor and memory chip shortages. Bilirakis urged support for legislation to reduce supply chain gaps and promote U.S. leadership in quantum computing and biomanufacturing.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-09): Schakowsky criticized the Trump administration's cuts to federal research grants. She argued that long-term technology leadership requires strong underlying investments.

[Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone \(D-NJ-06\)](#): Pallone argued the Trump administration's cuts to federal research and manufacturing programs have undermined AI innovation while allowing China to gain ground. He supported H.R. 6207 to ensure funding under the *CHIPS and Science Act* does not benefit U.S. adversaries. Pallone also raised concerns with H.R. 9385, arguing it could strain relations with the European Union (EU) and weaken U.S. businesses' ability to compete globally.

Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL-14): Castor spoke on behalf of Full Committee Ranking Member Pallone. She noted her support for H.R.6207, H.R.7334, and the Biosecurity Modernization and Innovation Act, and criticized H.R.9385 for protecting polluters and corporate "bad actors" from environmental accountability. Castor emphasized that American economic competitiveness and leadership in emerging technologies requires sustained investment in research and development.

Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA-23): Obernolte spoke on behalf of Full Committee Chair **Brett Guthrie** (R-KY-02). He criticized the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive as an extraterritorial regulation that would impose significant compliance costs on U.S. companies. Obernolte also highlighted the strategic importance of expanding domestic semiconductor manufacturing to meet growing demand.

Witness Toplines:

[Neil Chilson, Head of AI Policy, Abundance Institute](#): Chilson argued that existing regulatory barriers are slowing the deployment and commercialization of frontier AI models by American businesses. He endorsed the Open Source AI Leadership Act to strengthen U.S. leadership in open-source AI and counter growing competition from Chinese developers. Chilson also described the current patchwork of state-level AI regulations as a hindrance to American innovation and entrepreneurship.

¹ Opening statements were not available online at the time of this memo's distribution for Subcommittee Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky, Rep. Kathy Castor, and Rep. Jay Obernolte.

[Jason Fiorillo, Chief Legal Officer, Boston Dynamics:](#) Fiorillo urged Congress to establish a national robotics strategy by passing H.R. 7334 to counter China's subsidized robotics industry. He called for policies that incentivize domestic robotics manufacturing and warned that dependence on foreign-made advanced mobile robotics poses a serious cybersecurity threat.

[Marty Durbin, Senior Vice President for Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce:](#) Durbin urged Congress to establish comprehensive federal privacy and AI frameworks to avoid a patchwork of inconsistent state regulations. He criticized the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, arguing it imposes costly compliance requirements and liability risks on U.S. companies. Durbin also stressed the importance of strengthening domestic semiconductor production by addressing supply-demand imbalances through permitting reform and policies that incentivize innovation.

[Jedidah Isler, Chief Science Officer, Federation of American Scientists:](#) Isler explained that U.S. technological leadership depends on sustained investment in the nation's research programs. She warned that disruptions to federal research funding and reductions in the federal science workforce contribute to brain drain and slow the commercialization of new technologies. Isler added that legislation to strengthen U.S. technological competitiveness must include clear implementation strategies and long-term investments in research and development.

Major Takeaways

AI and Autonomous Systems:

- Reps. **Lori Trahan** (D-MA-03), Evans, and Guthrie advocated for the Open Source AI Leadership Act to address adoption barriers, combat intellectual property theft, and provide smaller developers with essential computing resources.
- Obernolte highlighted his bill H.R. 7334 to improve domestic and international supply chain risks affecting AI development.
 - He also urged support for his Great American AI Act ([H.R.](#)) which would establish federal standards for managing catastrophic risks in advanced AI models.
- Latta supported the Connected Vehicles Security Act ([H.R. 8730](#)) to ban connected Chinese vehicles from flooding U.S. markets.
 - He also supported the Self Drive Act ([H.R.7390](#)) to create a single federal framework for autonomous vehicles.
- Reps. **Russ Fulcher** (R-ID-01) and **Marc Veasey** (D-TX-33) raised concerns with AI's practical implications.
 - Fulcher questioned the viability of using patents to protect AI innovations.
 - Veasey noted the anxiety AI creates among soon-to-graduate college graduates, as well as AI companies' obligation to promote general safety and welfare.
- Rep. **Cliff Bentz** (R-OR-02) urged Congress to take a more active role in reassuring Americans that AI can be responsibly developed, noting a growing public distrust in the technology.

- Fiorillo and Dr. Isler agreed and noted that policymakers and industry have a responsibility to familiarize the public with AI's practical benefits by using positive messaging.
- Chilson added that the U.S. has developed a more cautious culture around AI compared to China because few Americans have meaningfully used AI tools like chatbots.

Semiconductors, Chips, and Data Centers:

- Reps. Miller-Meeks, Evans, and **Kim Schrier** (D-WA-08) supported the Memory Chip Competitiveness Assessment Act to combat supply constraints driven by the rapid growth of data centers.
- Reps. **Kevin Mullin** (D-CA-15), **John Joyce** (R-PA-13), and Veasey warned that low supply of advanced memory chips have hurt the supply chains of broadband, consumer electronics, and advanced medical devices.
- Fulcher argued the U.S. should pressure allies to not supply semiconductors to adversarial nations.
- Bentz suggested that data center developers must demonstrate tangible community benefits to overcome local opposition.
 - Durbin supported this approach and emphasized that industry can build public trust by actively engaging communities and addressing potential concerns.

Clean Energy, Minerals, and Permitting Reform:

- Castor expressed concern that the U.S. is falling behind China and the EU in clean energy technology.
 - She criticized the Trump administration for canceling fully permitted renewable energy projects and for rolling back investments in key clean energy technologies, including batteries, electric vehicles, solar, geothermal, and wind.
- Miller-Meeks emphasized that bipartisan permitting reform is essential to expanding energy infrastructure and advanced memory manufacturing in the U.S.

Research Funding and Scientific Competitiveness:

- Reps. **Darren Soto** (D-FL-09), **Robin Kelly** (D-IL-02), **Yvette Clarke** (D-NY-09), Schakowsky, and Pallone criticized the Trump administration for cutting federal research grants.
- Mullin stressed the importance of government regulation in biomanufacturing to protect the public from dangerous viruses.

Data Privacy:

- Bilirakis and Joyce stressed the importance of passing a national framework for data privacy.
- Joyce supported the “Secure Data Act” ([H.R. 8413](#)), arguing that a federal data privacy framework would protect consumers, enable beneficial data uses, and provide regulatory certainty by replacing a fragmented state patchwork.