LOTSIXTEEN

Committee: House Energy & Commerce Committee
Event: Full Committee Markup
Date: September 16, 2026

Executive Summary:

On Wednesday, September 16, 2026, the House Energy & Commerce Committee held a markup to consider 16 bills to enhance American technological development and strengthen communications networks.

This readout focuses on the Open-Source Artificial Intelligence (AI) Leadership Act (H.R. 10152) and the American Quantum Competitiveness Act (H.R. 10163); the full list of legislation considered by the Committee can be found here. Both bills were favorably reported out of Committee.

Member Toplines:

Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02): Guthrie stated the markup prioritizes setting a policy course to ensure American global leadership, highlighting bills, like the Open-Source AI Leadership Act and the American Quantum Competitiveness Act, as essential for developing advanced technologies. He also emphasized the importance of protecting American businesses from punitive foreign regulations and updating broadband maps to connect all communities to the digital economy.

Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06): Pallone expressed support for bills promoting American competitiveness and consumer protection, but strongly opposed the PROTECT USA Act (H.R. 9385), the Packaging and Claims Knowledge Act (H.R. 6832), and the Recycled Materials Attribution Act (H.R. 7502). He argued that such bills undermine environmental standards and state laws. He also spoke in opposition to the Open-Source AI Leadership Act, arguing that recent warnings from AI leaders about catastrophic consequences necessitate immediate Committee action on AI safety, rather than legislation focused on accelerating AI adoption.

Legislation Considered:

Open-Source AI Leadership Act (H.R. 10152)

I. Member Toplines

- Rep. **Gabe Evans** (D-CO-08) spoke in support of the bill, framing the development of open-source AI as a direct competition between the U.S. and China. He explained that the legislation directs the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to support the adoption of U.S. open-source models and assess the security risks of Chinese models, arguing that American leadership is necessary to protect consumer data.

- Ranking Member Pallone strongly opposed the bill, citing the recent warning from AI developers that the technology could "kill us by the end of the decade" and demanding the Committee prioritize enforceable AI safety guardrails over adoption.
    - Reps. **Lori Trahan** (D-MA-03), **Yvette Clarke** (D-NY-09), **Kim Shrier** (D-WA-08), **Debbie Dingell** (D-MI-06), **Rob Menendez** (D-NJ-08), **Greg Landsman** (D-OH-01), **Doris Matsui** (D-CA-07), and **Jennifer McClellan** (D-VA-04) all echoed their own opposition to the bill.
- Trahan pointed to her FRONTIER Act (H.R. 9925) as a solution to growing AI safety concerns.
- McClellan argued the bill cedes too much authority to the executive branch without addressing risks.
- Chair Guthrie acknowledged the safety concerns but argued the U.S. cannot surrender AI leadership to China, noting ongoing bipartisan efforts within the Committee to develop comprehensive regulations.

II. Favorably reported out of Committee 26 to 21.

American Quantum Competitiveness Act (H.R. 10163)

I. Member Toplines

- Rep. **Nick Langworthy** (R-NY-23) stated that the bill addresses how to ensure quantum technologies are built and manufactured in the U.S. as they move toward commercial use, directing Commerce to identify critical components and supply chain vulnerabilities.
- Rep. **Paul Tonko** (D-NY-20) highlighted the potential of quantum computing to transform the economy and national security, arguing the bill provides a necessary framework for sustained investment and coordinated federal leadership.

II. Amendments

- Tonko offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to narrow and clarify the bill to more effectively advance U.S. leadership in quantum science.
    - The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

III. Favorably reported out of Committee 36 to 0, as amended.