



26 June 2020

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology  
Washington DC, 20511

Dear Ranking Member Lucas,

On behalf of the nearly 170,000 members of the IEEE across the United States, I ask that you cosponsor and enthusiastically support the bipartisan and bicameral National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Resource Task Force Act (S. 3890 & H.R.7096). Investment in research and development of artificial intelligence technologies is extremely important to U.S. national security and we ask that you also consider a request to add H.R.7096 to the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

This act empowers a committee of subject matter experts from across government, industry and academia to devise a roadmap for the development, implementation, management and sustainment of a cloud-based research capability for the advancement of AI. This effort culminates in a shared cloud computing infrastructure to provide the necessary tools for advancing the future of our country's AI capability. This focused, coordinated effort will ensure that the United States remains the global leader in this critical emerging technology. S.3890 provides a roadmap of the resources needed to harvest the benefits AI. In short, by creating this shared cloud-based supercomputing infrastructure that is accessible to the scientific community, we not only significantly advance our AI capabilities far into the future, but also reap the benefits in other fields and disciplines, including cyber security, biotechnology, advanced communications, quantum science, automation, energy, and robotics.

The National AI Resource Task Force Act identifies the actions we must take to maintain our position as the global leader in AI-based technology. With the advent of 21<sup>st</sup> Century computing platforms, AI has become one of the most innovative economic engines for the global economy. Unfortunately, the technology also has the potential to become a harmful tool for other governments. Allowing our global competitors to lead in this area could result in the creation of ethical and moral standards that impose unacceptable restrictions on an individual's rights and freedom. Additionally, AI-based systems pose economic and national defense threats to the U.S. Given the global impact of these potential threats, doing nothing presents what should be considered by our nation's leaders as an unacceptable risk.

IEEE-USA strongly supports robust investments and efforts to create a collaborative community that includes our best and brightest innovators, entrepreneurs, and academics. This is an investment in America's future, and we ask you to support that future by cosponsoring and supporting the National AI Research Resource Task Force Act.

We thank you for your attention to these important matters. If we can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Wissolik at (202) 530-8347 or [e.wissolik@ieee.org](mailto:e.wissolik@ieee.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Conrad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James M. Conrad, Ph.D.  
President, IEEE-USA