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S. 4664

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to promote the use of artificial intelligence to support the missions of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10, 2024

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Reported by Mr. MANCHIN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to promote the use of artificial intelligence to support the missions of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Energy
3 AI Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Department has a leading role to play
7 in making the most of the potential of artificial in-
8 telligence to advance the missions of the Department
9 relating to national security, science, and energy (in-
10 cluding critical materials);

11 (2) the 17 National Laboratories employ over
12 40,000 scientists, engineers, and researchers with
13 decades of experience developing world-leading ad-
14 vanced computational algorithms, computer science
15 research, experimentation, and applications in ma-
16 chine learning that underlie artificial intelligence;

17 (3) the NNSA manages the Stockpile Steward-
18 ship Program established under section 4201 of the
19 Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2521),
20 which includes the Advanced Simulation and Com-
21 puting program, that provides critical classified and
22 unclassified computing capabilities to sustain the nu-
23 clear stockpile of the United States;

24 (4) for decades, the Department has led the
25 world in the design, construction, and operation of
26 the preeminent high-performance computing systems

1 of the United States, which benefit the scientific and
2 economic competitiveness of the United States
3 across many sectors, including energy, critical mate-
4 rials, biotechnology, and national security;

5 (5) across the network of 34 user facilities of
6 the Department, scientists generate tremendous vol-
7 umes of high-quality open data across diverse re-
8 search areas, while the NNSA has always generated
9 the foremost datasets in the world on nuclear deter-
10 rence and strategic weapons;

11 (6) the unrivaled quantity and quality of open
12 and classified scientific datasets of the Department
13 is a unique asset to rapidly develop frontier AI mod-
14 els;

15 (7) the Department already develops cutting-
16 edge AI models to execute the broad mission of the
17 Department, including AI models of the Department
18 that are used to forecast disease transmission for
19 COVID-19, and address critical material issues and
20 emerging nuclear security missions;

21 (8) the AI capabilities of the Department will
22 underpin and jumpstart a dedicated, focused, and
23 centralized AI program; and

24 (9) under section 4.1(b) of Executive Order
25 14110 (88 Fed. Reg. 75191 (November 1, 2023))

1 (relating to the safe, secure, and trustworthy devel-
2 opment and use of artificial intelligence), the Sec-
3 retary is tasked to lead development in testbeds, na-
4 tional security protections, and assessment of artifi-
5 cial intelligence applications.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **AI; ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**—The terms
9 “AI” and “artificial intelligence” have the meaning
10 given the term “artificial intelligence” in section
11 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative
12 Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

13 (2) **ALIGNMENT.**—The term “alignment”
14 means a field of AI safety research that aims to
15 make AI systems behave in line with human inten-
16 tions.

17 (3) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department”
18 means the Department of Energy, including the
19 NNSA.

20 (4) **FOUNDATION MODEL.**—The term “founda-
21 tion model” means an AI model that—

22 (A) is trained on broad data;
23 (B) generally uses self-supervision;
24 (C) contains at least tens of billions of pa-
25 rameters; and

(D) is applicable across a wide range of contexts; and

(E) exhibits, or could be easily modified to exhibit, high levels of performance at tasks that pose a serious risk to the security, national economic security, or national public health or safety of the United States.

(5) FRONTIER AI.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “frontier AI” means the leading edge of AI research that remains unexplored and is considered to be the most challenging, including models—

(ii) that exceed the capabilities currently present in the most advanced existing models; and

(ii) many of which perform a wide variety of tasks.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “frontier AI” includes AI models with more than 1,000,000,000,000 parameters.

(6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

1 (7) NNSA.—The term “NNSA” means the Na-
2 tional Nuclear Security Administration.

3 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Energy.

5 (9) TESTBED.—The term “testbed” means any
6 platform, facility, or environment that enables the
7 testing and evaluation of scientific theories and new
8 technologies, including hardware, software, or field
9 environments in which structured frameworks can be
10 implemented to conduct tests to assess the perform-
11 ance, reliability, safety, and security of a wide range
12 of items, including prototypes, systems, applications,
13 AI models, instruments, computational tools, de-
14 vices, and other technological innovations.

15 **SEC. 4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH TO DEPLOY-**
16 **MENT.**

17 (a) PROGRAM TO DEVELOP AND DEPLOY FRON-
18 TIERS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SCIENCE, SE-
19 URITY, AND TECHNOLOGY (FASST).—

20 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary shall establish a centralized AI program to
23 carry out research on the development and deploy-
24 ment of advanced artificial intelligence capabilities
25 for the missions of the Department (referred to in

1 this subsection as the “program”), consistent with
2 the program established under section 5501 of the
3 William M. (Mae) Thornberry National Defense Au-
4 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C.
5 9461).

6 (2) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The program shall ad-
8 vance and support diverse activities that include
9 the following components:

10 (i) Aggregation, curation, and dis-
11 tribution of AI training datasets.

12 (ii) Development and deployment of
13 next-generation computing platforms and
14 infrastructure.

15 (iii) Development and deployment of
16 safe and trustworthy AI models and sys-
17 tems.

18 (iv) Tuning and adaptation of AI
19 models and systems for pressing scientific,
20 energy, and national security applications.

21 (B) AGGREGATION, CURATION, AND DIS-
22 TRIBUTION OF AI TRAINING DATASETS.—In
23 carrying out the component of the program de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary
25 shall develop methods, platforms, protocols, and

1 other tools required for efficient, safe, and ef-
2 fective aggregation, generation, curation, and
3 distribution of AI training datasets, including—

4 (i) assembling, aggregating, and
5 curating large-scale training data for ad-
6 vanced AI, including outputs from research
7 programs of the Department and other
8 open science data, with the goal of devel-
9 oping comprehensive scientific AI training
10 databases and testing and validation data;

11 (ii) developing and executing appro-
12 priate data management plan for the eth-
13 ical, responsible, and secure use of classi-
14 fied and unclassified scientific data;

15 (iii) identifying, curating, and safely
16 distributing, as appropriate based on the
17 application—

18 (I) scientific and experimental
19 Departmental datasets; and

20 (II) sponsored research activities
21 that are needed for the training of
22 foundation and adapted downstream
23 AI models; and

24 (iv) partnering with stakeholders to
25 curate critical datasets that reside outside

the Department but are determined to be critical to optimizing the capabilities of open-science AI foundation models, national security AI foundation models, and other AI technologies developed under the program.

(C) DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF NEXT-GENERATION COMPUTING PLATFORMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out the component of the program described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall—

(i) develop early-stage AI testbeds to test and evaluate new software, hardware, algorithms, and other AI-based technologies and applications;

(ii) develop and deploy new energy-efficient AI computing hardware and software infrastructure necessary for developing and deploying trustworthy frontier AI systems that leverage the high performance computing capabilities of the Department and the National Laboratories;

(iii) facilitate the development and deployment of unclassified and classified high-performance computing systems and

1 AI platforms through Department-owned
2 infrastructure data and computing facil-
3 ties;

4 (iv) procure high-performance com-
5 puting and other resources necessary for
6 developing, training, evaluating, and de-
7 ploying AI foundation models and AI tech-
8 nologies; and

9 (v) use appropriate supplier screening
10 tools available through the Department to
11 ensure that procurements under clause (iv)
12 are from trusted suppliers.

13 (D) DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF
14 SAFE AND TRUSTWORTHY AI MODELS AND SYS-
15 TEMS.—In carrying out the component of the
16 program described in subparagraph (A)(iii), not
17 later than 3 years after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Secretary shall—

19 (i) develop innovative concepts and
20 applied mathematics, computer science, en-
21 gineering, and other science disciplines
22 needed for frontier AI;

23 (ii) develop best-in-class AI foundation
24 models and other AI technologies for open-
25 science and national security applications;

(iii) research and deploy counter-adversarial artificial intelligence solutions to predict, prevent, mitigate, and respond to threats to critical infrastructure, energy security, and nuclear nonproliferation, and biological and chemical threats;

(iv) establish crosscutting research efforts on AI risks, reliability, safety, trustworthiness, and alignment, including the creation of unclassified and classified data platforms across the Department; and

(v) develop capabilities needed to ensure the safe and responsible implementation of AI in the private and public sectors

(I) may be readily applied across Federal agencies and private entities to ensure that open-science models are released responsibly, securely, and in the national interest; and

(H) ensure that classified national security models are secure, responsibly managed, and safely implemented in the national interest.

(E) TUNING AND ADAPTATION OF AI MODELS AND SYSTEMS FOR PRESSING SCIENTIFIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY APPLICATIONS.—In carrying out the component of the program described in subparagraph (A)(iv), the Secretary shall—

1 (iv) increase research experiences and
2 workforce development, including training
3 for undergraduate and graduate students
4 in frontier AI for science, energy, and na-
5 tional security.

6 (3) STRATEGIC PLAN.—In carrying out the pro-
7 gram, the Secretary shall develop a strategic plan
8 with specific short-term and long-term goals and re-
9 sourcee needs to advance applications in AI for
10 science, energy, and national security to support the
11 missions of the Department, consistent with—

(B) the 2024 National Laboratory work-shop report entitled “AI for Energy”.

18 (b) AI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—

1 (A) to accelerate the safe and trustworthy
2 deployment of AI for science, energy, and na-
3 tional security missions;

4 (B) to demonstrate the use of AI in ad-
5 dressing key challenge problems of national in-
6 terest in science, energy, and national security;
7 and

8 (C) to maintain the competitive advantage
9 of the United States in AI.

10 (2) FOCUS.—Each Center shall bring together
11 diverse teams from National Laboratories, academia,
12 and industry to collaboratively and concurrently de-
13 ploy hardware, software, numerical methods, data,
14 algorithms, and applications for AI and ensure that
15 the frontier AI research of the Department is well-
16 suited for key Department missions, including by
17 using existing and emerging computing systems to
18 the maximum extent practicable.

19 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—

20 (A) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—Each Cen-
21 ter shall be established as part of a National
22 Laboratory.

23 (B) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for se-
24 lection to establish and operate a Center under
25 paragraph (1), a National Laboratory shall sub-

1 mit to the Secretary an application at such
2 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
3 formation as the Secretary may require.

4 (E) DIRECTOR.—Each Center shall be
5 headed by a Director, who shall be the Chief
6 Executive Officer of the Center and an em-
7 ployee of the National Laboratory described in
8 subparagraph (A), and responsible for—

9 (i) successful execution of the goals of
10 the Center; and
11 (ii) coordinating with other Centers.

12 (D) TECHNICAL ROADMAP.—In support of
13 the strategic plan developed under subsection
14 (a)(3), each Center shall—

15 (i) set a research and innovation goal
16 central to advancing the science, energy,
17 and national security mission of the De-
18 partment; and

19 (ii) establish a technical roadmap to
20 meet that goal in not more than 7 years.

21 (E) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall
22 coordinate, minimize duplication, and resolve
23 conflicts between the Centers.

24 (4) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available
25 under subsection (h), each Center shall receive not

1 less than \$30,000,000 per year for a duration of not
2 less than 5 years but not more than 7 years, which
3 yearly amount may be renewed for an additional 5-
4 year period.

5 (e) AI RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION PRO-
6 GRAM.—

7 (1) AI RISK PROGRAM.—As part of the program
8 established under subsection (a), and consistent with
9 the missions of the Department, the Secretary, in
10 consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
11 rity, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Na-
12 tional Intelligence, the Director of the National Se-
13 curity Agency, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall
14 carry out a comprehensive program to evaluate and
15 mitigate safety and security risks associated with ar-
16 tificial intelligence systems (referred to in this sub-
17 section as the “AI risk program”).

18 (2) RISK TAXONOMY.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under the AI risk pro-
20 gram, the Secretary shall develop a taxonomy of
21 safety and security risks associated with artifi-
22 cial intelligence systems relevant to the missions
23 of the Department, including, at a minimum,
24 the risks described in subparagraph (B).

(B) RISKS DESCRIBED.—The risks referred to in subparagraph (A) are the abilities of artificial intelligence—

- (i) to generate information at a given classification level;
 - (ii) to assist in generation of nuclear weapons information;
 - (iii) to assist in generation of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, non-proliferation, critical infrastructure, and energy security threats or hazards;
 - (iv) to assist in generation of malware and other cyber and adversarial threats that pose a significant national security risk, such as threatening the stability of critical national infrastructure;
 - (v) to undermine public trust in the use of artificial intelligence technologies or in national security;
 - (vi) to deceive a human operator or computer system, or otherwise act in opposition to the goals of a human operator or automated systems; and

(vii) to act autonomously with little or no human intervention in ways that conflict with human intentions.

4 (d) SHARED RESOURCES FOR AI.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-
6 tablished under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
7 identify, support, and sustain shared resources and
8 enabling tools that have the potential to accelerate
9 the pace of scientific discovery and technological in-
10 novation with respect to the missions of the Depart-
11 ment relating to science, energy, and national secu-
12 rity.

13 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-
14 graph (1), the Secretary shall consult with relevant
15 experts in industry, academia, and the National
16 Laboratories.

17 (3) FOCUS.—Shared resources and enabling
18 tools referred to in paragraph (1) shall include the
19 following:

(A) Scientific data and knowledge bases
for training AI systems.

(B) Benchmarks and competitions for evaluating advances in AI systems.

1 (C) Platform technologies that lower the
2 cost of generating training data or enable the
3 generation of novel training data.

4 (D) High-performance computing, includ-
5 ing hybrid computing systems that integrate AI
6 and high-performance computing.

7 (E) The combination of AI and scientific
8 automation, such as cloud labs and self-driving
9 labs.

10 (F) Tools that enable AI to solve inverse
11 design problems.

12 (G) Testbeds for accelerating progress at
13 the intersection of AI and cyberphysical sys-
14 tems.

15 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—

16 (1) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities au-
17 thorized under this section shall be applied in a
18 manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the
19 Research and Development, Competition, and Inno-
20 vation Act (42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

21 (2) CYBERSECURITY.—The Secretary shall en-
22 sure the integration of robust cybersecurity meas-
23 ures into all AI research-to-deployment efforts au-
24 thorized under this section to protect the integrity
25 and confidentiality of collected and analyzed data.

1 **(3) PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—**

2 **(A) IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall
3 seek to establish partnerships with private com-
4 panies and nonprofit organizations in carrying
5 out this Act, including with respect to the re-
6 search, development, and deployment of each of
7 the 4 program components described in sub-
8 sektion (a)(2)(A).

9 **(B) REQUIREMENT.**—In carrying out sub-
10 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall protect any
11 information submitted to or shared by the De-
12 partment consistent with applicable laws (in-
13 cluding regulations).

14 **(f) STEM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELO-
15 PMENT.—**

16 **(1) IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts made avail-
17 able under subsektion (h), not less than 10 percent
18 shall be used to foster the education and training of
19 the next-generation AI workforce.

20 **(2) AI TALENT.**—As part of the program estab-
21 lished under subsektion (a), the Secretary shall de-
22 velop the required workforce, and hire and train not
23 fewer than 500 new researchers to meet the rising
24 demand for AI talent—

(A) with a particular emphasis on expanding the number of individuals from underrepresented groups pursuing and attaining skills relevant to AI; and

5 (B) including by—

(i) providing training, grants, and research opportunities;

(ii) carrying out public awareness campaigns about AI career paths; and

(iii) establishing new degree and certificate programs in AI-related disciplines at universities and community colleges.

13 (g) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit
14 to Congress an annual report describing—

15 (1) the progress, findings, and expenditures
16 under each program established under this section;
17 and

(2) any legislative recommendations for promoting and improving each of those programs.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,400,000,000 each year for the 5-year period following the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL PERMITTING.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
4 tablish a program to improve Federal permitting processes
5 for energy-related projects, including critical materials
6 projects, using artificial intelligence.

7 (b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the
8 program established under subsection (a), the Secretary
9 shall carry out activities, including activities that—

10 (i) analyze data and provide tools from past
11 environmental and other permitting reviews, includ-
12 ing by—

13 (A) extracting data from applications for
14 comparison with data relied on in environ-
15 mental reviews to assess the adequacy and rel-
16 evance of applications;

17 (B) extracting information from past site-
18 specific analyses in the area of a current
19 project;

20 (C) summarizing key mitigation actions
21 that have been successfully applied in past simi-
22 lar projects; and

23 (D) using AI for deeper reviews of past de-
24 terminations under the National Environmental
25 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to

1 inform more flexible and effective categorical
2 exclusions; and

3 (2) build tools to improve future reviews, in-
4 cluding—

5 (A) tools for project proponents that acceler-
6 erate preparation of environmental documenta-
7 tion;

8 (B) tools for government reviewers such as
9 domain-specific large language models that help
10 convert geographic information system or tab-
11 ular data on resources potentially impacted into
12 rough-draft narrative documents;

13 (C) tools to be applied in nongovernmental
14 settings, such as automatic reviews of applica-
15 tions to assess the completeness of information;
16 and

17 (D) a strategic plan to implement and de-
18 ploy online and digital tools to improve Federal
19 permitting activities, developed in consultation
20 with—

21 (i) the Secretary of the Interior;

22 (ii) the Secretary of Agriculture, with
23 respect to National Forest System land;

24 (iii) the Executive Director of the
25 Federal Permitting Improvement Steering

(iv) the heads of any other relevant Federal department or agency, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

7 SEC. 6. RULEMAKING ON AI STANDARDIZATION FOR GRID 8 INTERCONNECTION.

9 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
11 shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the pro forma Large
12 Generator Interconnection Procedures promulgated pursuant
13 to section 35.28(f) of title 18, Code of Federal Regula-
14 tions (or successor regulations), to require public utility
15 transmission providers to share and employ, as appro-
16 priate, queue management best practices with respect to
17 the use of computing technologies, such as artificial intel-
18 ligence, machine learning, or automation, in evaluating
19 and processing interconnection requests, in order to expe-
20 dite study results with respect to those requests.

21 SEC. 7. ENSURING ENERGY SECURITY FOR DATACENTERS

22 AND COMPUTING RESOURCES.

23 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
25 port that—

1 (1) assesses—

2 (A) the growth of computing data centers
3 and advanced computing electrical power load
4 in the United States;

5 (B) potential risks of growth in computing
6 centers or growth in the required electrical
7 power to United States energy and national se-
8 curity; and

9 (C) the extent to which emerging tech-
10 nologies, such as artificial intelligence and ad-
11 vanced computing, may impact hardware and
12 software systems used at data and computing
13 centers; and

14 (2) provides recommendations for—

15 (A) resources and capabilities that the De-
16 partment may provide to promote access to en-
17 ergy resources by data centers and advanced
18 computing;

19 (B) policy changes to ensure domestic de-
20 ployment of data center and advanced com-
21 puting resources prevents offshoring of United
22 States data and resources; and

23 (C) improving the energy efficiency of data
24 centers, advanced computing, and AI.

1 SEC. 8. OFFICE OF CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-
2 NOLOGY.

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Department of En-
4 ergy Organization Act is amended by inserting after sec-
5 tion 215 (42 U.S.C. 7144b) the following:

6 "SEC. 216. OFFICE OF CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-

7 **NOLOGY.**

8 "(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

9 "(1) CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.—

10 The term ‘critical and emerging technology’
11 means—

12 “(A) advanced technology that is poten-
13 tially significant to United States competitive-
14 ness, energy security, or national security, such
15 as biotechnology, advanced computing, and ad-
16 vanced manufacturing;

17 “(B) technology that may address the chal-
18 lenges described in subsection (b) of section
19 10387 of the Research and Development, Com-
20 petition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C.
21 19107); and

22 “(C) technology described in the key tech-
23 nology focus areas described in subsection (e) of
24 that section (42 U.S.C. 19107).

25 “(2) DEPARTMENT CAPABILITIES.—The term
26 ‘Department capabilities’ means—

1 “(A) each of the National Laboratories (as
2 defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of
3 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); and

4 “(B) each associated user facility of the
5 Department.

6 “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
7 the Director of Critical and Emerging Technology
8 described in subsection (d).

9 “(4) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Of-
10 fice of Critical and Emerging Technology established
11 by subsection (b).

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be within the
13 Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Innovation
14 an Office of Critical and Emerging Technology.

15 “(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Office shall be—
16 “(1) to work across the entire Department to
17 assess and analyze the status of and gaps in United
18 States competitiveness, energy security, and national
19 security relating to critical and emerging tech-
20 nologies, including through the use of Department
21 capabilities;

22 “(2) to leverage Department capabilities to pro-
23 vide for rapid response to emerging threats and
24 technological surprise from new emerging tech-
25 nologies;

1 “(3) to promote greater participation of De-
2 partment capabilities within national science policy
3 and international forums; and

4 “(4) to inform the direction of research and
5 policy decisionmaking relating to potential risks of
6 adoption and use of emerging technologies, such as
7 inadvertent or deliberate misuses of technology.

8 “(d) DIRECTOR OF CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-
9 NOLOGY.—The Office shall be headed by a director, to be
10 known as the ‘Director of Critical and Emerging Tech-
11 nology’, who shall—

12 “(1) be appointed by the Secretary; and

13 “(2) be an individual who, by reason of profes-
14 sional background and experience, is specially quali-
15 fied to advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to
16 critical and emerging technology.

17 “(e) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the mission
18 and activities of the Office, the Director shall closely col-
19 laborate with all relevant Departmental entities, including
20 the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Of-
21 fice of Science, to maximize the computational capabilities
22 of the Department and minimize redundant capabilities.

23 “(f) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the mission
24 and activities of the Office, the Director—

1 “(1) shall coordinate with senior leadership
2 across the Department and other stakeholders (such
3 as institutions of higher education and private in-
4 dustry);

5 “(2) shall ensure the coordination of the Office
6 of Science with the other activities of the Depart-
7 ment relating to critical and emerging technology,
8 including the transfer of knowledge, capabilities, and
9 relevant technologies, from basic research programs
10 of the Department to applied research and develop-
11 ment programs of the Department, for the purpose
12 of enabling development of mission-relevant tech-
13 nologies;

14 “(3) shall support joint activities among the
15 programs of the Department;

16 “(4) shall coordinate with the heads of other
17 relevant Federal agencies operating under existing
18 authorizations with subjects related to the mission of
19 the Office described in subsection (e) in support of
20 advancements in related research areas, as the Di-
21 rector determines to be appropriate; and

22 “(5) may form partnerships to enhance the use
23 of, and to ensure access to, user facilities by other
24 Federal agencies.

25 “(g) PLANNING, ASSESSMENT, AND REPORTING.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of the Department of
3 Energy Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a critical and emerging technology action plan
4 and assessment, which shall include—
5

6 “(A) a review of current investments, programs, activities, and science infrastructure of
7 the Department, including under National Laboratories, to advance critical and emerging technologies;
8
9

10 “(B) a description of any shortcomings of
11 the capabilities of the Department that may adversely impact national competitiveness relating
12 to emerging technologies or national security;
13 and
14

15 “(C) a budget projection for the subsequent 5 fiscal years of planned investments of
16 the Department in each critical and emerging
17 technology, including research and development,
18 infrastructure, pilots, test beds, demonstration
19 projects, and other relevant activities.
20

21 “(2) UPDATES.—Every 2 years after the submission of the plan and assessment under paragraph
22 (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress—
23
24

1 “(A) an updated emerging technology ac-
2 tion plan and assessment; and

3 “(B) a report that describes the progress
4 made toward meeting the goals set forth in the
5 emerging technology action plan and assess-
6 ment submitted previously.”

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 for the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public
9 Law 95-91, 91 Stat. 565; 119 Stat. 764; 133 Stat. 2199)
10 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section
11 215 the following:

“See. 216. Office of Critical and Emerging Technology.”

12 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

13 *This Act may be cited as the “Department of Energy
14 AI Act”.*

15 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

16 *Congress finds that—*

17 *(1) the Department has a leading role to play in
18 making the most of the potential of artificial intel-
19 ligence to advance the missions of the Department re-
20 lating to national security, science, and energy (in-
21 cluding critical materials);*

22 *(2) the 17 National Laboratories employ over
23 40,000 scientists, engineers, and researchers with dec-
24 ades of experience developing world-leading advanced
25 computational algorithms, computer science research,*

1 *experimentation, and applications in machine learn-*
2 *ing that underlie artificial intelligence;*

3 (3) *the NNSA manages the Stockpile Steward-*
4 *ship Program established under section 4201 of the*
5 *Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2521), which*
6 *includes the Advanced Simulation and Computing*
7 *program, that provides critical classified and unclas-*
8 *sified computing capabilities to sustain the nuclear*
9 *stockpile of the United States;*

10 (4) *for decades, the Department has led the world*
11 *in the design, construction, and operation of the pre-*
12 *minent high-performance computing systems of the*
13 *United States, which benefit the scientific and eco-*
14 *nomic competitiveness of the United States across*
15 *many sectors, including energy, critical materials,*
16 *biotechnology, and national security;*

17 (5) *across the Department's network of 34 user*
18 *facilities, scientists generate tremendous volumes of*
19 *high-quality open data across diverse research areas,*
20 *while the NNSA has always generated the foremost*
21 *datasets in the world on nuclear deterrence and stra-*
22 *tegic weapons;*

23 (6) *the unrivaled quantity and quality of open*
24 *and classified scientific datasets of the Department is*
25 *a unique asset to rapidly develop frontier AI models;*

1 (7) the Department already develops cutting-edge
2 AI models to execute the broad mission of the Depart-
3 ment, including AI models developed by the Depart-
4 ment that are used to forecast disease transmission
5 for COVID–19, and address critical material issues
6 and emerging nuclear security missions;

7 (8) the AI capabilities of the Department will
8 underpin and jumpstart a dedicated, focused, and
9 centralized AI program; and

10 (9) under section 4.1(b) of Executive Order
11 14110 (88 Fed. Reg. 75191 (November 1, 2023)) (re-
12 lating to the safe, secure, and trustworthy develop-
13 ment and use of artificial intelligence), the Secretary
14 is tasked to lead development in testbeds, national se-
15 curity protections, and assessment of artificial intel-
16 ligence applications.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) **AI; ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**—The terms
20 “AI” and “artificial intelligence” have the meaning
21 given the term “artificial intelligence” in section
22 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative
23 Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

1 (2) *ALIGNMENT*.—The term “alignment” means
2 a field of AI safety research that aims to make AI
3 systems behave in line with human intentions.

4 (3) *DEPARTMENT*.—The term “Department”
5 means the Department of Energy, including the
6 NNSA.

7 (4) *FOUNDATION MODEL*.—The term “foundation
8 model” means an AI model that—

- 9 (A) is trained on broad data;
- 10 (B) generally uses self-supervision;
- 11 (C) contains at least tens of billions of pa-
12 rameters; and
- 13 (D) is applicable across a wide range of
14 contexts; and
- 15 (E) exhibits, or could be easily modified to
16 exhibit, high levels of performance at tasks that
17 pose a serious risk to the security, national eco-
18 nomic security, or national public health or safe-
19 ty of the United States.

20 (5) *FRONTIER AI*.—

21 (A) *IN GENERAL*.—The term “frontier AI”
22 means the leading edge of AI research that re-
23 mains unexplored and is considered to be the
24 most challenging, including models—

(i) that exceed the capabilities currently present in the most advanced existing models; and

(ii) many of which perform a wide variety of tasks.

(B) *INCLUSION*.—The term “frontier AI” includes AI models with more than 1,000,000,000,000 parameters.

9 (6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-
10 tional Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in
11 section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
12 15801).

15 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of Energy.

17 (9) *TESTBED*.—The term “testbed” means any
18 platform, facility, or environment that enables the
19 testing and evaluation of scientific theories and new
20 technologies, including hardware, software, or field
21 environments in which structured frameworks can be
22 implemented to conduct tests to assess the perform-
23 ance, reliability, safety, and security of a wide range
24 of items, including prototypes, systems, applications,

AI models, instruments, computational tools, devices, and other technological innovations.

3 SEC. 4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH TO DEPLOYMENT.

5 (a) *PROGRAM TO DEVELOP AND DEPLOY FRONTIERS*
6 *IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SCIENCE, SECURITY,*
7 *AND TECHNOLOGY (FASST).*—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 shall establish a centralized AI program to carry out
11 research on the development and deployment of ad-
12 vanced artificial intelligence capabilities for the mis-
13 sions of the Department (referred to in this subsection
14 as the “program”), consistent with the program estab-
15 lished under section 5501 of the William M. (Mac)
16 Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for
17 Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9461).

18 (2) *PROGRAM COMPONENTS.*—

(i) Aggregation, curation, and distribution of AI training datasets.

(ii) Development and deployment of next-generation computing platforms and infrastructure.

(iii) Development and deployment of safe and trustworthy AI models and systems.

(iv) Tuning and adaptation of AI models and systems for pressing scientific, energy, and national security applications.

(B) AGGREGATION, CURATION, AND DIS-

TRIBUTION OF AI TRAINING DATASETS.—In carrying out the component of the program described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall develop methods, platforms, protocols, and other tools required for efficient, safe, secure, and effective aggregation, generation, curation, and distribution of AI training datasets, including—

(i) assembling, aggregating, and curating large-scale training data for advanced AI, including outputs and synthetic data from research programs of the Department and other open science data, with the goal of developing comprehensive scientific AI training databases and testing and validation data;

(ii) developing and executing appropriate data management plan for the ethical, responsible, and secure use of classified and unclassified scientific data;

(iii) identifying, restricting, securing, curating, and safely distributing, as appropriate based on the application—

(I) scientific and experimental
Departmental datasets; and

(II) sponsored research activities are needed for the training of dation and adapted downstream models; and

(iv) partnering with stakeholders to identify, secure, and curate critical datasets that reside outside the Department but are determined to be critical to optimizing the capabilities of open-science AI foundation models, national security AI foundation models, applied energy AI foundation models, and other AI technologies developed under the program.

*(C) DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF
NEXT-GENERATION COMPUTING PLATFORMS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out the compo-*

1 *nent of the program described in subparagraph*
2 *(A)(ii), the Secretary shall—*

3 *(i) develop early-stage and applica-*
4 *tion-stage AI testbeds to test and evaluate*
5 *new software, hardware, algorithms, and*
6 *other AI-based technologies and applica-*
7 *tions;*

8 *(ii) develop and deploy new energy-ef-*
9 *ficient AI computing hardware and soft-*
10 *ware infrastructure necessary for developing*
11 *and deploying trustworthy and secure inter-*
12 *operable frontier AI systems that leverage*
13 *the high-performance computing capabilities*
14 *of the Department and the National Lab-*
15 *oratories;*

16 *(iii) facilitate the development and de-*
17 *ployment of unclassified and classified high-*
18 *performance computing systems and AI*
19 *platforms through Department-owned infra-*
20 *structure data and computing facilities;*

21 *(iv) procure interoperable high-per-*
22 *formance computing and other resources*
23 *necessary for developing, training, evalu-*
24 *ating, and deploying AI foundation models*
25 *and AI technologies; and*

(I) may be readily applied across Federal agencies and private entities to ensure that open-science models are released, operated, and managed responsibly, securely, and in the national interest; and

1 *the program described in subparagraph (A)(iv),*

2 *the Secretary shall—*

3 (i) *use AI foundation models and other*
4 *AI technologies to develop a multitude of*
5 *tuned and adapted downstream models to*
6 *solve pressing scientific, applied energy, and*
7 *national security challenges;*

8 (ii) *carry out joint work, including*
9 *public-private partnerships, and cooperative*
10 *research projects with industry, including*
11 *end user companies, hardware systems ven-*
12 *dors, and AI software companies, to ad-*
13 *vance AI technologies relevant to the mis-*
14 *sions of the Department;*

15 (iii) *form partnerships with other Fed-*
16 *eral agencies, institutions of higher edu-*
17 *cation, and international organizations*
18 *aligned with the interests of the United*
19 *States to advance frontier AI systems devel-*
20 *opment and deployment; and*

21 (iv) *increase research experiences and*
22 *workforce development, including training*
23 *for undergraduate and graduate students in*
24 *frontier AI for science, energy, and national*
25 *security.*

1 (3) *STRATEGIC PLAN.*—In carrying out the pro-
2 gram, the Secretary shall develop a strategic plan
3 with specific short-term and long-term goals and re-
4 source needs to advance applications in AI for
5 science, energy, and national security to support the
6 missions of the Department, consistent with—

7 (A) the 2023 National Laboratory workshop
8 report entitled “Advanced Research Directions
9 on AI for Science, Energy, and Security”; and
10 (B) the 2024 National Laboratory workshop
11 report entitled “AI for Energy”.

12 (4) *AI TALENT.*—As part of the program, the
13 Secretary shall develop the required workforce, and
14 hire and train not fewer than 500 new researchers to
15 meet the rising demand for AI talent—

16 (A) with a particular emphasis on expand-
17 ing the number of individuals from underrep-
18 resented groups pursuing and attaining skills
19 relevant to AI; and

20 (B) including by—

21 (i) providing training, grants, and re-
22 search opportunities;
23 (ii) carrying out public awareness
24 campaigns about AI career paths; and

(iii) establishing new degree and certificate programs in AI-related disciplines at universities and community colleges.

(b) *AI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.*—

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—As part of the program estab-
6 lished under subsection (a), the Secretary shall select,
7 on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis, National Lab-
8 oratories to establish and operate not fewer than 8
9 multidisciplinary AI Research and Development Cen-
10 ters (referred to in this subsection as “Centers”—

(A) to accelerate the safe, secure, and trustworthy deployment of AI for science, energy, and national security missions;

(C) to maintain the competitive advantage
of the United States in AI.

19 (2) CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELECTION.—In se-
20 lecting National Laboratories under paragraph (1),
21 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-
22 ticable—

(A) ensure that at least 1 Center focuses on applied energy activities carried out by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,

1 *the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Manage-*
2 *ment, or the Office of Nuclear Energy; and*

3 *(B) consider geographic diversity to leverage*
4 *resources and facilities of National Laboratories*
5 *and partners in different regions.*

6 *(3) FOCUS.—Each Center shall bring together di-*
7 *verse teams from National Laboratories, Department*
8 *user facilities, academia, and industry to collabora-*
9 *tively and concurrently deploy hardware, software,*
10 *numerical methods, data, algorithms, and applica-*
11 *tions for AI and ensure that the frontier AI research*
12 *of the Department is well-suited for key Department*
13 *missions, including by using existing and emerging*
14 *computing systems and datasets to the maximum ex-*
15 *tent practicable.*

16 *(4) ADMINISTRATION.—*

17 *(A) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—Each Center*
18 *shall be established as part of a National Lab-*
19 *oratory.*

20 *(B) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for selec-*
21 *tion to establish and operate a Center under*
22 *paragraph (1), a National Laboratory shall sub-*
23 *mit to the Secretary an application at such time,*
24 *in such manner, and containing such informa-*
25 *tion as the Secretary may require.*

(ii) establish a technical roadmap to meet that goal in not more than 7 years.

(E) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate, minimize duplication, and resolve conflicts between the Centers.

21 (c) *AI RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION PRO-*
22 *GRAM.—*

23 (1) *AI RISK PROGRAM.*—As part of the program
24 established under subsection (a), and consistent with
25 the missions of the Department, the Secretary, in con-

1 sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security,
2 the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National In-
3 telligence, the Director of the National Security Agen-
4 cy, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall carry out a
5 comprehensive program to evaluate and mitigate safe-
6 ty and security risks associated with artificial intel-
7 ligence systems (referred to in this subsection as the
8 “AI risk program”).

9 (2) *RISK TAXONOMY.*—

10 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—Under the AI risk pro-
11 gram, the Secretary shall develop a taxonomy of
12 safety and security risks associated with artifi-
13 cial intelligence systems and datasets relevant to
14 the missions of the Department, including, at a
15 minimum, the risks described in subparagraph
16 (B).

17 (B) *RISKS DESCRIBED.*—The risks referred
18 to in subparagraph (A) are the abilities of artifi-
19 cial intelligence—

- 20 (i) to generate information at a given
21 classification level;
- 22 (ii) to assist in generation of nuclear
23 weapons information;
- 24 (iii) to assist in generation of chem-
25 ical, biological, radiological, nuclear, non-

1 *proliferation, critical infrastructure, and*
2 *other economic, security, or energy threats;*

3 (iii) *to assist in generation of malware*
4 *and other cyber and adversarial tactics,*
5 *techniques, and procedures that pose a sig-*
6 *nificant national security risk, such as*
7 *threatening the stability of critical national*
8 *infrastructure;*

9 (iv) *to undermine public trust in the*
10 *use of artificial intelligence technologies or*
11 *in national security;*

12 (v) *to deceive a human operator or*
13 *computer system, or otherwise act in oppo-*
14 *sition to the goals of a human operator or*
15 *automated systems;*

16 (vi) *to act autonomously with little or*
17 *no human intervention in ways that con-*
18 *flict with human intentions;*

19 (vii) *to be vulnerable to data com-*
20 *promise by malicious cyber actors; and*

21 (viii) *to be vulnerable to other emerging*
22 *or unforeseen risk, as determined by the*
23 *Secretary.*

24 (d) *SHARED RESOURCES FOR AI.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—As part of the program estab-
2 lished under subsection (a), the Secretary shall iden-
3 tify, support, and sustain shared resources and ena-
4 bling tools that have the potential to reduce cost and
5 accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and techno-
6 logical innovation with respect to the missions of the
7 Department relating to science, energy, and national
8 security.

9 (2) *CONSULTATION.*—In carrying out paragraph
10 (1), the Secretary shall consult with relevant experts
11 in industry, academia, and the National Labora-
12 tories.

13 (3) *FOCUS.*—Shared resources and enabling tools
14 referred to in paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
15 lowing:

16 (A) *Scientific data and knowledge bases for
17 training AI systems.*

18 (B) *Benchmarks and competitions for evalu-
19 ating advances in AI systems.*

20 (C) *Platform technologies that lower the cost
21 of generating training data or enable the genera-
22 tion of novel training data.*

23 (D) *High-performance computing, includ-
24 ing hybrid computing systems that integrate AI
25 and high-performance computing.*

1 (E) *The combination of AI and scientific
2 automation, such as cloud labs and self-driving
3 labs.*

4 (F) *Tools that enable AI to solve inverse de-
5 sign problems.*

6 (G) *Testbeds for accelerating progress at the
7 intersection of AI and cyberphysical systems.*

8 (e) *ADMINISTRATION.—*

9 (1) *RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities au-
10 thorized under this section shall be applied in a man-
11 ner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Re-
12 search and Development, Competition, and Innova-
13 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).*

14 (2) *CYBERSECURITY.—The Secretary shall en-
15 sure the integration of robust cybersecurity and data
16 security measures into all AI research-to-deployment
17 efforts authorized under this section to protect the in-
18 tegrity and confidentiality of collected and analyzed
19 data.*

20 (3) *PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—*

21 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek
22 to establish partnerships with private companies
23 and nonprofit organizations in carrying out this
24 Act, including with respect to the research, devel-
25 opment, and deployment of each of the 4 pro-*

1 gram components described in subsection
2 (a)(2)(A).

3 (B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out sub-
4 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall protect any
5 information submitted to or shared by the De-
6 partment consistent with applicable laws (in-
7 cluding regulations).

8 (4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this sec-
9 tion, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
10 practicable, consider leveraging existing resources
11 from public and private sectors.

12 (f) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to
13 Congress an annual report describing—

14 (1) the progress, findings, and expenditures
15 under each program established under this section;
16 and

17 (2) any legislative recommendations for pro-
18 moting and improving each of those programs.

19 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL PERMITTING.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall estab-
22 lish a program to improve Federal permitting processes for
23 energy-related projects, including critical materials projects
24 using artificial intelligence.

1 (b) *PROGRAM COMPONENTS.*—In carrying out the pro-
2 gram established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
3 carry out activities, including activities that—

4 (1) generate, collect, and analyze data and pro-
5 vide tools from past environmental and other permit-
6 ting reviews, including by—

7 (A) extracting data from applications for
8 comparison with data relied on in environ-
9 mental reviews to assess the adequacy and rel-
10 evance of applications;

11 (B) extracting information from past site-
12 specific analyses in the area of a current project;

13 (C) summarizing key mitigation actions
14 that have been successfully applied in past simi-
15 lar projects; and

16 (D) using AI for deeper reviews of past de-
17 terminations under the National Environmental
18 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to
19 inform more flexible and effective categorical ex-
20 clusions; and

21 (2) build tools to improve future reviews, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) tools for project proponents that accel-
24 erate preparation of environmental documenta-
25 tion;

1 (B) tools for government reviewers such as
2 domain-specific large language models that help
3 convert geographic information system or tab-
4 ular data on resources potentially impacted into
5 rough-draft narrative documents;

6 (C) tools to be applied in nongovernmental
7 settings, such as automatic reviews of applica-
8 tions to assess the completeness of information;
9 and

10 (D) a strategic plan to implement and de-
11 ploy online and digital tools to improve Federal
12 permitting activities, developed in consultation
13 with—

14 (i) the Secretary of the Interior;
15 (ii) the Secretary of Agriculture, with
16 respect to National Forest System land;
17 (iii) the Executive Director of the Fed-
18 eral Permitting Improvement Steering
19 Council established by section 41002(a) of
20 the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m-1(a)); and
21 (iv) the heads of any other relevant
22 Federal department or agency, as deter-
23 mined appropriate by the Secretary.

24 (c) INTERAGENCY ACCESS.—The Secretary shall make
25 available to Federal agencies—

1 (1) the code for any artificial intelligence developed
2 in furtherance of the program established under
3 subsection (a);

(2) the training dataset curated under this section; and

(3) the particular environmental documents used in that training dataset.

**8 SEC. 6. RULEMAKING ON AI STANDARDIZATION FOR GRID
9 INTERCONNECTION.**

10 *Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment*
11 *of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*
12 *shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the pro forma Large*
13 *Generator Interconnection Procedures promulgated pursu-*
14 *ant to section 35.28(f) of title 18, Code of Federal Regula-*
15 *tions (or successor regulations), to require public utility*
16 *transmission providers to share and employ, as appro-*
17 *priate, queue management best practices with respect to the*
18 *use of computing technologies, such as artificial intelligence,*
19 *machine learning, or automation, in evaluating and proc-*
20 *essing interconnection requests, in order to expedite study*
21 *results with respect to those requests.*

1 **SEC. 7. ENSURING ENERGY SECURITY FOR DATACENTERS**

2 **AND COMPUTING RESOURCES.**

3 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
4 this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
5 that—*

6 *(1) assesses—*

7 *(A) the growth of computing data centers
8 and advanced computing electrical power load in
9 the United States;*

10 *(B) potential risks of growth in computing
11 centers or growth in the required electrical power
12 to United States energy and national security;*

13 *(C) the national security impacts of com-
14 putting data centers being manipulated through
15 nefarious means to cause broad impacts to en-
16 ergy reliability; and*

17 *(D) the extent to which emerging tech-
18 nologies, such as artificial intelligence and ad-
19 vanced computing, may impact hardware and
20 software systems used at data and computing
21 centers; and*

22 *(2) provides recommendations for—*

23 *(A) resources and capabilities that the De-
24 partment may provide to promote access to en-
25 ergy resources by data centers and advanced
26 computing;*

1 (B) policy changes to ensure domestic de-
2 ployment of data center and advanced com-
3 puting resources prevents offshoring of United
4 States data and resources;
5 (C) improving the energy efficiency of data
6 centers, advanced computing, and AI; and
7 (D) enhancing collaboration and resource
8 sharing between National Laboratories and other
9 applicable entities to maximize scientific output
10 and accelerate AI innovation.

11 **SEC. 8. OFFICE OF CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title II of the Department of En-
13 ergy Organization Act is amended by inserting after section
14 215 (42 U.S.C. 7144b) the following:

15 **“SEC. 216. OFFICE OF CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-
16 NOLOGY.**

17 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

18 “(1) *CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.*—
19 The term ‘critical and emerging technology’ means—
20 “(A) advanced technology that is potentially
21 significant to United States competitiveness, en-
22 ergy security, or national security, such as bio-
23 technology, advanced computing, and advanced
24 manufacturing;

1 “(B) technology that may address the chal-
2 lenges described in subsection (b) of section
3 10387 of the Research and Development, Com-
4 petition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19107);
5 and

6 “(C) technology described in the key tech-
7 nology focus areas described in subsection (c) of
8 that section (42 U.S.C. 19107).

9 “(2) DEPARTMENT CAPABILITIES.—The term
10 ‘Department capabilities’ means—

11 “(A) each of the National Laboratories (as
12 defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of
13 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); and

14 “(B) each associated user facility of the De-
15 partment.

16 “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the
17 Director of Critical and Emerging Technology de-
18 scribed in subsection (d).

19 “(4) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Office
20 of Critical and Emerging Technology established by
21 subsection (b).

22 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be within the Of-
23 fice of the Under Secretary for Science and Innovation an
24 Office of Critical and Emerging Technology.

25 “(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Office shall be—

1 “(1) to work across the entire Department to as-
2 sess and analyze the status of and gaps in United
3 States competitiveness, energy security, and national
4 security relating to critical and emerging tech-
5 nologies, including through the use of Department ca-
6 pabilities;

7 “(2) to leverage Department capabilities to pro-
8 vide for rapid response to emerging threats and tech-
9 nological surprise from new emerging technologies;

10 “(3) to promote greater participation of Depart-
11 ment capabilities within national science policy and
12 international forums; and

13 “(4) to inform the direction of research and pol-
14 icy decisionmaking relating to potential risks of
15 adoption and use of emerging technologies, such as in-
16 advertent or deliberate misuses of technology.

17 “(d) **DIRECTOR OF CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**
18 **NOLOGY.**—The Office shall be headed by a director, to be
19 known as the ‘Director of Critical and Emerging Tech-
20 nology’, who shall—

21 “(1) be appointed by the Secretary; and

22 “(2) be an individual who, by reason of profes-
23 sional background and experience, is specially quali-
24 fied to advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to
25 critical and emerging technology.

1 “(e) *COLLABORATION.*—In carrying out the mission
2 and activities of the Office, the Director shall closely collabor-
3 ate with all relevant Departmental entities, including the
4 National Nuclear Security Administration, the applied en-
5 ergy offices, and the Office of Science, to maximize the com-
6 putational capabilities of the Department and minimize re-
7 dundant capabilities.

8 “(f) *COORDINATION.*—In carrying out the mission and
9 activities of the Office, the Director—

10 “(1) shall coordinate with senior leadership
11 across the Department and other stakeholders (such as
12 institutions of higher education and private indus-
13 try);

14 “(2) shall ensure the coordination of the Office of
15 Science with the other activities of the Department re-
16 lating to critical and emerging technology, including
17 the transfer of knowledge, capabilities, and relevant
18 technologies, from basic research programs of the De-
19 partment to applied research and development pro-
20 grams of the Department, for the purpose of enabling
21 development of mission-relevant technologies;

22 “(3) shall support joint activities among the pro-
23 grams of the Department;

24 “(4) shall coordinate with the heads of other rel-
25 evant Federal agencies operating under existing au-

1 *thorizations with subjects related to the mission of the*
2 *Office described in subsection (c) in support of ad-*
3 *vancements in related research areas, as the Director*
4 *determines to be appropriate; and*

5 “(5) *may form partnerships to enhance the use*
6 *of, and to ensure access to, user facilities by other*
7 *Federal agencies.*

8 “*(g) PLANNING, ASSESSMENT, AND REPORTING.—*

9 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days*
10 *after the date of enactment of the Department of En-*
11 *ergy AI Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress*
12 *a critical and emerging technology action plan and*
13 *assessment, which shall include—*

14 “(A) *a review of current investments, pro-*
15 *grams, activities, and science infrastructure of*
16 *the Department, including under National Lab-*
17 *atories, to advance critical and emerging tech-*
18 *nologies;*

19 “(B) *a description of any shortcomings of*
20 *the capabilities of the Department that may ad-*
21 *versely impact national competitiveness relating*
22 *to emerging technologies or national security;*
23 *and*

24 “(C) *a budget projection for the subsequent*
25 *5 fiscal years of planned investments of the De-*

1 *partment in each critical and emerging tech-*
 2 *nology, including research and development, in-*
 3 *frastructure, pilots, test beds, demonstration*
 4 *projects, and other relevant activities.*

5 “*(2) UPDATES.—Every 2 years after the submis-*
 6 *sion of the plan and assessment under paragraph (1),*
 7 *the Secretary shall submit to Congress—*

8 “*(A) an updated emerging technology action*
 9 *plan and assessment; and*

10 “*(B) a report that describes the progress*
 11 *made toward meeting the goals set forth in the*
 12 *emerging technology action plan and assessment*
 13 *submitted previously.”.*

14 *(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for*
 15 *the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law*
 16 *95–91; 91 Stat. 565; 119 Stat. 764; 133 Stat. 2199) is*
 17 *amended by inserting after the item relating to section 215*
 18 *the following:*

“Sec. 216. *Office of Critical and Emerging Technology.*”.

19 **SEC. 9. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTEL-**
 20 **LIGENCE REVIEW OF VISITORS AND ASSIGN-**
 21 **EES.**

22 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

23 *(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
 24 *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
 25 *tees” means—*

1 (A) the congressional intelligence commit-
2 tees;

3 (B) the Committee on Armed Services, the
4 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
5 the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Com-
6 mittee on the Judiciary, the Committee on
7 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
8 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
9 Senate; and

10 (C) the Committee on Armed Services, the
11 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Com-
12 mittee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the
13 Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Secu-
14 rity, and the Committee on Appropriations of
15 the House of Representatives.

16 (2) *COUNTRY OF RISK*.—The term “country of
17 risk” means a country identified in the report sub-
18 mitted to Congress by the Director of National Intel-
19 ligence in 2024 pursuant to section 108B of the Na-
20 tional Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043b) (com-
21 monly referred to as the “Annual Threat Assess-
22 ment”).

23 (3) *COVERED ASSIGNEE; COVERED VISITOR*.—
24 The terms “covered assignee” and “covered visitor”
25 mean a foreign national from a country of risk that

1 is “engaging in competitive behavior that directly
2 threatens U.S. national security”, who is not an em-
3 ployee of either the Department or the management
4 and operations contractor operating a National Lab-
5 oratory on behalf of the Department, and has re-
6 quested access to the premises, information, or tech-
7 nology of a National Laboratory.

8 (4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the
9 Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintel-
10 ligence of the Department (or their designee).

11 (5) FOREIGN NATIONAL.—The term “foreign na-
12 tional” has the meaning given the term “alien” in
13 section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality
14 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

15 (6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-
16 tional Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in
17 section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
18 15801).

19 (7) NONTRADITIONAL INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION
20 THREAT.—The term “nontraditional intelligence col-
21 lection threat” means a threat posed by an individual
22 not employed by a foreign intelligence service, who is
23 seeking access to information about a capability, re-
24 search, or organizational dynamics of the United

1 *States to inform a foreign adversary or nonstate*
2 *actor.*

3 *(b) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:*

4 *(1) The National Laboratories conduct critical,*
5 *cutting-edge research across a range of scientific dis-*
6 *ciplines that provide the United States with a techno-*
7 *logical edge over other countries.*

8 *(2) The technologies developed in the National*
9 *Laboratories contribute to the national security of the*
10 *United States, including classified and sensitive mili-*
11 *tary technology and dual-use commercial technology.*

12 *(3) International cooperation in the field of*
13 *science is critical to the United States maintaining*
14 *its leading technological edge.*

15 *(4) The research enterprise of the Department,*
16 *including the National Laboratories, is increasingly*
17 *targeted by adversarial nations to exploit military*
18 *and dual-use technologies for military or economic*
19 *gain.*

20 *(5) Approximately 40,000 citizens of foreign*
21 *countries, including more than 8,000 citizens from*
22 *China and Russia, were granted access to the prem-*
23 *ises, information, or technology of National Labora-*
24 *tories in fiscal year 2023.*

1 (6) *The Office of Intelligence and Counterintel-*
2 *ligence of the Department is responsible for identi-*
3 *fying counterintelligence risks to the Department, in-*
4 *cluding the National Laboratories, and providing di-*
5 *rection for the mitigation of such risks.*

6 (c) *SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Sen-*
7 *ate that—*

8 (1) *before being granted access to the premises,*
9 *information, or technology of a National Laboratory,*
10 *citizens of foreign countries identified in the 2024 An-*
11 *nual Threat Assessment of the intelligence community*
12 *as “engaging in competitive behavior that directly*
13 *threatens U.S. national security” should be appro-*
14 *priately screened by the National Laboratory to which*
15 *they seek access, and by the Office of Intelligence and*
16 *Counterintelligence of the Department, to identify*
17 *risks associated with granting the requested access to*
18 *sensitive military, or dual-use technologies; and*

19 (2) *identified risks should be mitigated.*

20 (d) *REVIEW OF COUNTRY OF RISK COVERED VISITOR*
21 *AND COVERED ASSIGNEE ACCESS REQUESTS.—The Direc-*
22 *tor shall, in consultation with the applicable Under Sec-*
23 *retary of the Department that oversees the National Labora-*
24 *tory, or their designee, promulgate a policy to assess the*
25 *counterintelligence risk that covered visitors or covered as-*

1 signees pose to the research or activities undertaken at a
2 National Laboratory.

3 (e) *ADVICE WITH RESPECT TO COVERED VISITORS OR*
4 *COVERED ASSIGNEES.—*

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide ad-*
6 *vise to a National Laboratory on covered visitors and*
7 *covered assignees when 1 or more of the following con-*
8 *ditions are present:*

9 (A) *The Director has reason to believe that*
10 *a covered visitor or covered assignee is a non-*
11 *traditional intelligence collection threat.*

12 (B) *The Director is in receipt of informa-*
13 *tion indicating that a covered visitor or covered*
14 *assignee constitutes a counterintelligence risk to*
15 *a National Laboratory.*

16 (2) *ADVICE DESCRIBED.—Advice provided to a*
17 *National Laboratory in accordance with paragraph*
18 *(1) shall include a description of the assessed risk.*

19 (3) *RISK MITIGATION.—When appropriate, the*
20 *Director shall, in consultation with the applicable*
21 *Under Secretary of the Department that oversees the*
22 *National Laboratory, or their designee, provide rec-*
23 *ommendations to mitigate the risk as part of the ad-*
24 *vise provided in accordance with paragraph (1).*

1 (f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly
3 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate
4 congressional committees a report, which shall include—
5 (1) the number of covered visitors or covered as-
6 signees permitted to access the premises, information,
7 or technology of each National Laboratory;
8 (2) the number of instances in which the Direc-
9 tor provided advice to a National Laboratory in ac-
10 cordance with subsection (e); and
11 (3) the number of instances in which a National
12 Laboratory took action inconsistent with advice pro-
13 vided by the Director in accordance with subsection
14 (e).
15 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
17 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2024
18 through 2032.

Calendar No. 631

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
S. 4664

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to promote the use of artificial intelligence to support the missions of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Reported with an amendment