

Opening Statement:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Chair Bilirakis and Ranking Member Schakowsky for holding this important hearing on the role of AI in the manufacturing space. Manufacturing is at the core of our economy. It contributes to more applications, is more sophisticated, and operates in a highly competitive environment with countries like China. China's manufacturing value add and contribution to global GDP continues to outpace the United States. And China produces more goods than the U.S. in 9 of the top 11 manufacturing industries. But the U.S. can outcompete China (or any other country) if we fully utilize our technologies, resources, and talented people.

In Idaho, global food manufacturers locate in our state because of our agricultural resources. We have small manufacturers, fulfilling contracts on major weapons systems like the F-35. And we have major semiconductor producers, developing chips for the next generation of mobile, logic, and industrial computing needs.

In all these cases, innovation in production, identifying defects, ordering parts for machines before they fail, and helping workers improve safety and productivity are all crucial.

I want to learn how AI can help improve the production process, empowering the line worker to catch defects, innovate processes, and improve safety. I want to know how AI can help predict machine failures better to prevent production interruptions.

I want to understand how we take care to provide for data sharing for these needs, while ensuring privacy among end users.

Finally, I want to find ways the federal government can help manufacturers recruit, train, and reskill new and existing people by streamlining or eliminating barriers to opportunity. Thank you and I yield back.