



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

Ranking Member Haley Stevens (D-MI)
of the Subcommittee on Research & Technology

Subcommittee on Research & Technology Hearing:
DeepSeek: A Deep Dive

April 8th, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Obernolte for hosting this timely hearing. I want to recognize your wonderful leadership on the Bipartisan AI Taskforce and AI issues in the House. I am excited to work alongside you on the Research and Technology Subcommittee this Congress.

Good morning and welcome to today's distinguished panel of witnesses.

People have called the release of DeepSeek-R1, a Chinese developed model with capabilities on par with some of the most advanced American AI systems, a "sputnik moment." While this model release sent shockwaves across global markets, it does not show that China has surpassed the U.S. in AI innovation. Yet.

What is clear is that the United States has a peer competitor in AI development and diffusion. The Chinese have taken lessons from U.S. AI development, distilled U.S. models, developed a STEM education pipeline for AI experts, worked collaboratively to develop an open AI ecosystem, and now they are only months behind the U.S. in AI development cycles. This should be a wakeup call.

With the specter of the PRC out-innovating the U.S. in a critical technology as the backdrop for the hearing, I must also raise concerns about the reckless policies of this Administration and how they are undermining our ability to compete on AI, chips, and numerous other advanced industries.

I am very worried about the illegal impoundment of funds, expected budget cuts, and the legally dubious firing of experts at NSF, NIH, DOE, NASA, and NIST. A rumored two-thirds budget cut at NSF tells me we're not going to compete with China. It tells me we are packing it up and going home.

And while the Administration has heralded industry-led AI infrastructure development, such as Open AI's \$500 billion dollar data center project in Texas, they have also taken steps to make building that infrastructure in the U.S. more expensive. Last week's unilateral tariffs sent shockwaves through the markets, and will directly impact the building out of this AI

infrastructure. Additionally, uncertainty in the semiconductor market – potential chip tariffs, R&D cuts, and investment roll backs – threaten long-term U.S. leadership.

While several new semiconductor fabs are being built in the U.S. thanks to the CHIPS Act, we have still not made necessary investments to build out the supplier ecosystem that will allow for a domestic supply chain. Instead of supporting this supplier ecosystem, we are doing the opposite.

Last week, the Administration announced they are winding down the Manufacturing Extension Partnership—a program that bolsters the domestic supply chain and helps our small- and medium-sized manufacturers respond to supply chain shocks that result from both natural and manmade disasters. For example, a global trade war.

In today's hearing, I would like to understand the risks of China leading in open-source AI development and the global diffusion of models. In January, DeepSeek R1 became the number 1 app on several U.S. and international app stores. And beyond DeepSeek, for months open Chinese models have been at the top of adoption charts in open-source repositories like Hugging Face and GitHub.

Today, I would also like to explore how we test and understand AI risks from these systems. Since joining this Committee, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to promote trustworthy AI innovation. I am proud that we led the development of the 2020 National AI Initiative Act to accelerate and coordinate Federal investments in research, standards, and education in trustworthy AI. The Initiative is up for reauthorization this year.

Last Congress, I also served on the House AI Taskforce, which took a hard look at the state of AI, including in testing and evaluation. And in this Committee, we advanced several bipartisan bills to authorize critical evaluation activities, including a bill to authorize the AI Safety Institute at NIST. Additionally, this Committee advanced bills to invest in AI infrastructure, education, and deployment, including my Small Business AI Advancement Act with Congressman Mike Collins (R-GA) to support America's Main Street in the new AI economy. I hope we can move quickly to take up those efforts again this Congress, Mr. Chairman.

Finally, today I would like the witnesses to help us understand what we should be doing to ensure that the United States continues to lead the world in AI innovation, development, and diffusion.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.