



## **Opening Statement of Chairman Brian Babin**

*Submitted for the Record*

Environment Subcommittee Hearing  
*Innovations in Agrichemicals: AI's Hidden Formula Driving Efficiency*  
May 20, 2025

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I want to thank Chairman Franklin for holding this important hearing and our expert panel of witnesses for their participation.

Today's discussion offers us a unique opportunity to explore innovations in the agrichemical industry, particularly integrating artificial intelligence (AI) in new product development and its various applications. This exciting new research will help shape the landscape for our farmers in Texas, throughout the nation, and around the world.

Every American relies on the success of the agriculture industry, and by holding this discussion, we can highlight how AI-driven technologies can help enhance our domestic sector.

It is imperative that we foster strong collaboration between the federal government, private industry, and academia on AI innovations.

Using AI to identify new molecules to help create new crop protection tools, detect plant diseases, determine optimal growing cycles, and aid in pesticide applications will all help strengthen the domestic agricultural economy.

It is critical that we get the policy right at the federal level.

Greater coordination between these entities can help drive innovation and keep the U.S. at the forefront of world-changing technology.

Like those testifying today, private companies and academia are accelerating progress in this field and are ready to share their expertise and discuss their ready-to-go technology.

There is much at stake on the world stage as we advance artificial intelligence and its integration into agrichemicals.

China is rapidly advancing its AI capabilities, and the CCP has repeatedly demonstrated that it does not play by the same rules as other nations.

We must remain vigilant about potential national security threats posed by emerging technologies developed by the CCP.

But as I've said before: we will not outpace China—or any competitive nation—by copying their playbook. Instead, we must develop systems that promote coordination and cooperation across the entire U.S. science and technology enterprise.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses and learning more about their work in this critical field.

This hearing presents an important opportunity to examine how AI is shaping the future of agrichemicals, while also addressing the need to combat malicious activities from adversaries abroad.

Through this discussion, we aim to ensure the continued safety and success of our nation's food supply and to explore how the federal government can be better positioned on the global stage.

Because the bottom line is this: agricultural security is food security, and food security is national security.

With that, I yield back.