

# United States Senate

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January 4, 2024

Arati Prabhakar  
Director  
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20504

Sethuraman Panchanathan  
Director  
National Science Foundation  
2415 Eisenhower Ave,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Directors Prabhakar and Panchanathan:

I write in light of President Biden's Executive Order #14110: Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence and the establishment of a pilot project for the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) and to urge you to strongly consider a consortium formed out of leading New York research institutions as a potential home for this pilot. I would like to invite the Biden Administration to send senior officials to visit New York and meet with key stakeholders to discuss this further.

The National AI Act of 2020, which I voted for as part of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, called for the National Science Foundation (NSF), in coordination with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), to form a NAIRR Task Force to investigate the feasibility of establishing a NAIRR, and develop a roadmap detailing how such a resource could be established and sustained. The final report from the task force, released in January of 2023, detailed the significant value the NAIRR would provide, saying "We see the NAIRR as a foundational investment that would amplify efforts across the Federal Government to cultivate AI innovation and advance trustworthy AI. Research, experimentation, and innovation are integral to our progress as a Nation, and it is imperative that we engage people from every zip code and every background to live up to America's unique promise of possibility and ensure our leadership on the world stage."

In the President's recent executive order (EO), the Biden Administration has taken the next step in bringing the NAIRR to fruition. The EO calls for NSF and other relevant agencies, and consistent with the NAIRR Task Force's recommendation, to standup a pilot program within 90 days. Specifically, it says that, "The Director of NSF shall identify Federal and private sector computational, data, software, and training resources appropriate for inclusion in the NAIRR pilot program." With 90 days quickly approach, I write to urge you to look closely at New York for this pilot program.

New York is home to leading research institutions that are tackling AI head on, including: Cornell University, State University of New York, New York University, Syracuse University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, Columbia University, City University of New

York, Rensselaer Polytechnic among many others. New York also has leading community colleges, from Nassau to Erie, that stand ready to work closely with this pilot program and ensure a broad swath of Americans can access this critical resource.

The NAIRR represents a unique opportunity to democratize access to a technology that is set to revolutionize our world, and nowhere is better suited to cover a broad geographic, economic, and sociological stratum than New York. I urge you to look closely at partnering with a New York consortium for the NAIRR pilot project and to help arrange for senior Biden Administration officials to visit New York and meet with key stakeholders to discuss this further.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my staff with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

CC:

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Laurie E. Locascio, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology