**AI Insight Forum - Innovation**
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Written Statement of Marc Andreessen

**Why AI Can Make Everything We Care About Better**

The most validated, core conclusion of social science across many decades and thousands of studies is that *human* intelligence makes a very broad range of life outcomes better. Smarter people have better outcomes in almost every domain of activity: academic achievement, job performance, occupational status, income, creativity, physical health, longevity, learning new skills, managing complex tasks, leadership, entrepreneurial success, conflict resolution, reading comprehension, financial decision making, understanding others' perspectives, creative arts, parenting outcomes, and life satisfaction.

Further, human intelligence is the lever that we have used for millennia to create the world we live in today: science, technology, math, physics, chemistry, medicine, energy, construction, transportation, communication, art, music, culture, philosophy, ethics, morality. Without the application of intelligence on all these domains, we would all still be living in mud huts, scratching out a meager existence of subsistence farming. Instead we have used our intelligence to raise our standard of living on the order of 10,000X over the last 4,000 years.

What AI offers us is the opportunity to profoundly *augment* human intelligence to make all of these outcomes of intelligence – and many others, from the creation of new medicines to ways to solve climate change to technologies to reach the stars – much, much better from here.

AI augmentation of human intelligence has already started (it is already around us in the form of computer control systems of many kinds), is now rapidly escalating with AI Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT, and will accelerate very quickly from here – *if we let it*.

In our new era of AI:

- Every child will have an AI tutor that is infinitely patient, infinitely compassionate, infinitely knowledgeable, infinitely helpful. The AI tutor will be by each child's side every step of their development, helping them maximize their potential with the machine version of infinite love.
- Every person will have an AI assistant/coach/mentor/trainer/advisor/therapist that is infinitely patient, infinitely compassionate, infinitely knowledgeable, and infinitely helpful. The AI assistant will be present through all of life's opportunities and challenges, maximizing every person's outcomes.
- Every scientist will have an AI assistant/collaborator/partner that will greatly expand their scope of scientific research and achievement. Every artist, every engineer, every businessperson, every doctor, every caregiver will have the same in their worlds.
- Every leader of people – CEO, government official, nonprofit president, athletic coach, teacher – will have the same. The magnification effects of better decisions by leaders

across the people they lead are enormous, so this intelligence augmentation may be the most important of all.
- Productivity growth throughout the economy will accelerate dramatically, driving economic growth, creation of new industries, creation of new jobs, and wage growth, resulting in a new era of heightened material prosperity across the planet.
- And on, and on, and on…

For more on this and counterpoints to some common AI misconceptions, please reference my essay Why AI Will Save The World.

**How We Can Achieve These Outcomes**

*Protect Competition by Encouraging the Adoption of Open Source AI*

Since the advent of the internet, open source technology has played a pivotal role in fostering innovation, encouraging competition, and democratizing access to technology. Think of open source not just as code, but as a practice where software's DNA is laid out for the world to see, tweak, and share. It's this very ethos that has rallied a dynamic global tribe of thinkers, builders, and visionaries, all converging, iterating, and crafting the digital wonders we witness today. Open source technology is the reason the internet has succeeded far beyond our imagination and we must protect it and encourage it in the AI era.

*Open Source AI Will Improve the Lives of Everyone*

1. **Safety & Security** - At first glance, laying your code bare for all to see might seem counterintuitive to security. But it's precisely this open scrutiny that makes it a bastion of safety, and makes overbearing regulations unnecessary. Think of open source as the software world's version of peer review. Thousands, if not millions, of eyes pore over each line, searching for flaws, vulnerabilities, and potential exploits. It's this vast, global community that ensures any gaps in the defense are rapidly detected and fortified. In proprietary systems, vulnerabilities might remain undiscovered, but in the open source sunlight, they're swiftly spotlighted and addressed, crafting a digital landscape that's not only innovative but also inherently secure. While proponents of AI safety guidelines often point to the “blackbox” nature of AI models – i.e. that the reasoning behind their conclusions are not “explainable” – recent advances by the AI industry have now solved this problem, ensuring the integrity of open source code models.
2. **Democratizing Ideas and Transparency** - the future of AI shouldn't be dictated by a few large corporations. It should be a group of global voices, pooling together diverse insights and ethical frameworks. Open source AI is that democratizing force. It's the guarantee that the algorithms guiding our societies are transparent, accountable, and adaptable by the many, not just the elite few. By championing open source we’re not

merely preserving code – we're safeguarding a future where technology is by the people, for the people, and reflective of humanity's collective wisdom. Open source ensures that the AI era is both inclusive and just.

3. **Academia** - By embracing open source, academia breaks free from the confines of proprietary tools, enabling scholars to dissect, modify, and build upon software without barriers. It offers researchers a limitless laboratory, unrestricted by commercial licenses. Similarly, new AI breakthroughs like LLMs require significant financial and processing power resources to effectively run. Absent the availability of open source models, academic researchers, who do not have the financial and computing resources to develop LLMs and other computing intensive models, will be cut out of the advancement of this technology.

*AI is Critical for our National Security*

It's not hyperbole to assert that America's AI leadership is crucial, especially when viewed through the prism of our dynamic with China. As Beijing aggressively integrates AI into its military strategies, surveillance apparatus, and economic master plans, America's place as a technological beacon isn't just about Silicon Valley startups—it's about safeguarding our national security. If we let our AI momentum wane, we risk being outpaced in areas like cybersecurity, intelligence operations, and modern warfare, handing strategic advantages to a formidable competitor. We lose on hard power.

But this also has significant economic and ideological ramifications. AI is a foundational computing technology that will continue to transform all sectors of the economy and drive the creation of new industries and jobs in ways we cannot yet anticipate. The ability of the U.S. economy to disproportionately benefit from AI – as with microchips and the internet – depends critically on whether AI is developed by companies within the U.S. Additionally, America's AI endeavors are intertwined with our democratic fabric, emphasizing individual freedoms, privacy, and an ethos of open innovation. In stark contrast, China's AI trajectory is heavily influenced by state control and surveillance priorities. If America stands at the forefront of AI, we can drive global norms that prioritize these democratic values in the emerging AI-driven world. Overbearing regulations risk ceding our leadership to China reshaping the global tech ecosystem in a way that's less transparent and more authoritarian, with ripple effects that could redefine the internet's DNA for the next 20 years. We also lose on soft power.

While the U.S. currently holds a distinct edge over China—thanks in no small part to our homegrown technology sector pioneering groundbreaking LLMs in AI—this advantage is *not* guaranteed. These monumental advancements, borne out of an ecosystem that championed unbridled AI R&D, now face an ironic twist. Just as we're unlocking AI's immense potential,

there's a rising chorus suggesting we pump the brakes. Calls for industry restraint and AI licensing will pave the way for regulatory frameworks that incumbent behemoths will exploit, sidelining the very startups that inject fresh innovation into our tech landscape. As we navigate the rise of AI, we must ensure that the spirit of innovation that got us here isn't smothered by the very mechanisms intended to safeguard it.

**I Propose A Simple Plan**:

- Big AI companies should be allowed to build AI as fast and aggressively as they can – but *not* allowed to achieve regulatory capture, *not* allowed to establish a government-protected cartel that is insulated from market competition due to speculative claims of AI risk. This will maximize the technological and societal payoff from the amazing capabilities of these companies, which are jewels of modern capitalism.
- Startup AI companies should be allowed to build AI as fast and aggressively as *they* can. They should neither confront government-granted protection of big companies, nor should they receive government assistance. They should simply be allowed to compete. If and as startups *don't* succeed, their presence in the market will also continuously motivate big companies to be their best – our economies and societies win either way.
- Open source AI should be allowed to freely proliferate and compete with both big AI companies and startups. Development of open source code should continue to be unregulated - as it is today. Use of open source code by bad actors for illicit activity is already heavily regulated and criminally prohibited and those standards should apply to the use of open source AI. Even when open source does not beat companies, its widespread availability is a boon to students all over the world who want to learn how to build and use AI to become part of the technological future, and will ensure that AI is available to everyone who can benefit from it no matter who they are or how much money they have.
- To offset the risk of bad people doing bad things with AI, governments working in partnership with the private sector should vigorously engage in each area of potential risk, using AI to maximize society's defensive capabilities. This shouldn't be limited to AI-enabled risks but also more general problems such as malnutrition, disease, and climate. AI can be an incredibly powerful tool for solving problems, and we should embrace it as such.
- To prevent the risk of China achieving global AI dominance, we should use the full power of our private sector, our scientific establishment, and our governments in concert to drive American and Western AI to absolute global dominance, including ultimately inside China itself. We win, they lose.