

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

RE: Markup of H.R. 9197, H.R. 9194, H.R. 9211, H.R. 9215, H.R. 9402, H.R. 9403, H.R. 5077, H.R. 9497, H.R. 9466

Dear Chairman Lucas, Ranking Member Lofgren, and Members of the Committee,

ACT | The App Association (the App Association) applauds your continued leadership on artificial intelligence (AI) governance and your attention to the role of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in this space. Your recent markup approving key legislation is a significant step forward in maintaining the United States' leadership in AI development and ensuring that innovation thrives.

The App Association is a global trade association representing small business competitors in the app economy. Our members develop the software, hardware, and services that are revolutionizing virtually all industry verticals from healthcare and education to manufacturing and cybersecurity. We work with and for our member companies to promote a policy environment that rewards and inspires innovation while providing resources that help them raise capital, create jobs, and continue to build incredible technology.

We fully support the **AI Advancement and Reliability Act (H.R. 9497)** for equipping NIST with the necessary resources to contribute to international AI standards while appropriately maintaining its vital role as a collaborator—not a regulator. By focusing NIST's efforts on engaging with stakeholders and supporting multi-stakeholder processes, this bill ensures that AI standards are developed through inclusive and consensus-driven approaches.

As outlined in our statement regarding the **NSF AI Education Act (H.R. 9402)** and the **Small Business AI Advancement Act (H.R. 9197)**,¹ we believe these pieces of legislation will help enhance AI education and empower small businesses. Specifically, **H.R. 9197** would help address the unique challenges small businesses face in

¹ Statement from ACT President Morgan Reed on NSF AI Education Act and Small Business AI Advancement Act (House Versions), Aug. 21, 2024, *available at* <https://actonline.org/2024/08/21/statement-from-act-president-morgan-reed-on-nsf-ai-education-act-and-small-business-ai-advancement-act-house-versions/>.

competing and innovating within the AI landscape. Additionally, **H.R. 9402** strengthens AI research and education through scholarships and Centers of Excellence.

Your committee's focus on these essential initiatives demonstrates a clear commitment to advancing AI in a way that benefits all, especially the small businesses driving much of the innovation in this space. We encourage you to continue this work, ensuring that NIST and other agencies, empowered with critical resources, maintain their roles as facilitators of AI standards and guidance development. We hope that you will consider the App Association as a resource on standards development and how public policy around standards affects small business innovators in your districts and across the nation.

Thank you again for your leadership on these important issues. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the committee as we work together to advance these priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Morgan Reed
President
ACT | The App Association