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AI Action Plan
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RE: AI Action Plan

Team Pennsylvania is pleased to submit this response to the National Science Foundation's Request for Information regarding the development of a National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Plan.

As a unique non-partisan nonprofit, Team Pennsylvania's mission is to accelerate the economic growth of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through public-private partnership. Pennsylvania's robust energy infrastructure, its rich legacy in manufacturing, its position in the semiconductor supply chain, and its globally recognized research institutions position the Commonwealth to play a critical role in advancing the nation's AI economy.

The rapid acceleration of AI development presents both unprecedented opportunities and significant challenges. AI has the potential to transform key sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, and energy by enhancing productivity, optimizing resource use, and driving innovation. This transformation also poses challenges, including the need for robust infrastructure, increased energy demands, and intentional efforts to accelerate AI adoption across geographies and business types. The timeliness of aligning federal policies and tools to drive AI applications will be essential to making industries more efficient, effective, and economically stronger.

1. Developing Supercomputing Infrastructure through Adequate Energy Supply

AI model development and deployment demands increasingly greater computing capacity, making the availability of reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy essential. Pennsylvania's central position within the PJM Interconnection region makes it a key hub for data center infrastructure. Federal AI policy should prioritize the development of supercomputing infrastructure by ensuring adequate energy supply, modernizing grid infrastructure, and incentivizing energy efficiency innovations in data centers. Collaboration between energy

providers, data center operators, and public agencies will be critical to meet the evolving energy demands of AI without compromising grid reliability.

To support the growth of AI applications, an "all of the above" energy strategy is essential. Pennsylvania's diverse energy resources—including nuclear, natural gas, and renewable energy—provide a strong foundation to meet the escalating energy demands of data centers. Federal support for expanding nuclear energy capacity, modernizing natural gas infrastructure, and integrating renewable energy sources will bolster Pennsylvania's ability to become a national leader in supercomputing infrastructure. These investments will not only enable the scaling of AI activities but also create new economic opportunities across the region.

2. Facilitating Scalable AI Applications through Commercialization and Regional Engagement

Pennsylvania is home to a strong concentration of world-class universities conducting cutting-edge AI research and producing AI innovations. However, bridging the gap between academic research and scalable commercial applications remains a challenge. Federal AI policy should prioritize funding mechanisms and public-private partnerships that accelerate the transition of practical, use-inspired AI technologies from lab to market. Establishing demonstration projects and expanding regional innovation clusters can help ensure that AI breakthroughs lead to tangible economic benefits for businesses and communities across rural and urban geographies.

Geographic engagement is critical to ensuring the distribution of AI's economic benefits. Federal investments can help connect AI innovation ecosystems with communities, including smaller cities and rural regions, where strong tech bases, growing populations and robust venture capital may not exist. This approach will enable a broad range of businesses and workers to participate in the AI economy across the entire country. Small and mid-sized manufacturers—such as those located across Pennsylvania's rural landscape—stand to benefit significantly from AI applications that enhance operational efficiency, improve supply chain management, and drive product innovation. Ensuring these businesses participate in an AI economy will strengthen not only Pennsylvania's manufacturing base but will contribute to more resilient regional economies across the US.

Additionally, AI presents transformative opportunities for agriculture and the farming community, which is a significant aspect of Pennsylvania's economy. Federal investments

should prioritize AI applications that improve crop yields, optimize resource use, and enable precision agriculture while also making these advancements financially and operationally accessible to farmers. By integrating AI solutions into agricultural operations, rural communities can benefit from increased productivity and sustainability, further underpinning the United States' food supply.

3. Leveraging Pennsylvania's Strengths in Manufacturing and the Semiconductor Supply Chain

Pennsylvania's long-standing manufacturing prowess, combined with emerging leadership in the semiconductor supply chain, positions the state to contribute significantly to the nation's AI hardware and infrastructure needs. Federal policy should prioritize investments in domestic semiconductor manufacturing and advanced packaging facilities, particularly in regions where existing manufacturing infrastructure can be leveraged. Collaboration between public and private partners can accelerate the scaling of semiconductor production and help address critical supply chain vulnerabilities.

Conclusion

Team Pennsylvania stands ready to partner with public and private sector stakeholders to ensure that Pennsylvania plays a central role in building a robust AI economy. By developing supercomputing infrastructure through adequate energy supply, facilitating scalable AI applications through commercialization, and engaging communities large and small, rural and urban, the United States can extend its leadership in rapid advancements in key industries that have strong global impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the development of the National AI Action Plan and look forward to ongoing collaboration to shape the future of AI in the United States.

Sincerely,

Abby Smith
President & CEO
