

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 5, 2024

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
On Commerce, Justice, Science, &  
Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
On Commerce, Justice, Science, &  
Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, and any other relevant funding opportunities, we urge you to include \$10 million for the establishment of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) U.S. Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute (USAISI).

USAISI was announced at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit in the United Kingdom last month. The summit resulted in 28 countries and the European Union supporting the "Bletchley Declaration" to collectively boost global AI safety efforts. The USAISI represents a pivotal and cost-effective strategy for the U.S. to maintain its leadership in AI innovation and underscore our dedication to collaborating with nations globally, ensuring the responsible and safe development of this groundbreaking technology.

The rapid advancement of AI innovation has brought forth immense possibilities and opportunities. However, with these advancements come potential challenges and risks that must be addressed in a safe manner. The USAISI aims to provide a dedicated platform for research, collaboration, and implementation of safety measures in AI development. This is not only a matter of technical necessity, but also a strategic imperative to ensure that AI technologies are developed in a manner that reflects our shared democratic values and supports American industry. The USAISI will rely heavily upon interdisciplinary collaboration and bring together a wide variety of experts and stakeholders from the private and public sectors.

By fostering an environment of collaboration, the institute will facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge, leading to more comprehensive and effective innovation and safety policies. Public education and awareness about AI will also be imperative to the successful development of the technology in the U.S. and across the world. The USAISI can play a pivotal role in this educational endeavor by helping to demystify AI and promoting a more nuanced understanding of its potential.

The USAISI would be established as a NIST-led Joint Institute and leverage widely-supported work already underway within NIST. If funded at \$10 million for FY 2024, it is our understanding that NIST would use this initial funding to bring on additional staff, accelerate its

work on testing environments, fund joint research partnerships, and support the coordination of private sector engagement in USAISI's work. Specifically, NIST will use the funding to enhance its team with experts in red teaming and capability evaluation, support the formation of a Joint Research Center for advancing AI system evaluation techniques and safety research, and support the USAISI Consortium that will play a crucial role in integrating these advancements into industry and society.

We respectfully urge you to include \$10 million for FY 2024 for the USAISI to support safe U.S. development of AI and effective international standards coordination. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

CC:

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee