MAYOR
REX RICHARDSON

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Opposition to 10-year Moratorium on AI Regulation for State and Local Governments

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City is strongly opposed to the proposed 10-year moratorium on implementing artificial intelligence (AI) laws or regulations. The language included in the current reconciliation bill will prevent state and local governments from ensuring AI users are safe when using the many tools and programs being quickly developed around the world. Without a thoughtful and carefully balanced policy framework, AI poses serious risks to data security, civil rights, and public safety.

The City recognizes the opportunity for a guided and responsible approach to AI that acknowledges the benefits to efficiency while minimizing the risks around AI bias, privacy, and cybersecurity. The City's current Generative AI Guidance provides guidelines, sample use cases, and a code of conduct that reflects Long Beach values. This guidance has helped staff use AI responsibly and safely, protecting sensitive City data mitigating bias, and promoting transparency. Long Beach intends to evolve the Guidance into a City-wide AI Policy, which would allow for even stronger data privacy and cybersecurity protections for AI systems deployed by the City and provide mechanism for enforcement. It is only with, not without, the appropriate guardrails in place that the City of Long Beach can realize the full potential of this technology while preventing its unintended harms.

The proposed 10-year ban on state and local AI regulation risks undermining the valuable role Long Beach and other local government policies play in protecting the public and responding to emerging challenges posed by AI systems. Completely sidelining states and local governments may lead to missed opportunities for innovation in policy and oversight. A decade-long regulatory freeze could allow harmful, biased, or exploitative AI technologies to spread without accountability. State and local governments should retain the authority to act quickly and locally to safeguard local civil rights, consumer protections, and public safety.

A more balanced solution would allow federal standards to coexist with state-level flexibility. California is leading the nation in AI development while simultaneously enshrining consumer protections and safety into state law. The City supports the responsible use, oversight and development of AI, that does not put residents, city staff, and other users at risk. For these reasons, the City opposes the 10-year moratorium on AI regulations, as currently included in the budget reconciliation package.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

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