

AI Policy Newsletter

February 13, 2026

At a Glance

- On February 9, POLITICO [reported](#) the Trump administration is drafting a pact to ensure AI data centers do not raise household electricity prices or strain water supply. This would be done through voluntary commitments from major U.S. tech companies, including a requirement that AI data center developers cover the entire cost of new power generation for their facilities' needs. While the list of signatories is still unconfirmed, companies including OpenAI, Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Meta, and Oracle have all reportedly been engaged.
- On February 10, Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Jim Banks (R-IN) [announced](#) plans to introduce a Senate version of the AI Oversight Act. The House bill, which was championed by Chairman Brian Mast (R-FL) and passed through the House Foreign Affairs Committee in January, would allow Congress to block advanced AI chip exports to U.S. foreign adversaries, including China. Warren also said she'll join Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) on separate legislation to track advanced chips and prevent misuse by foreign adversaries. Warren's announcement came after Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei – who has been advocating for stronger curbs on AI chips to China – met with members of the Senate Banking Committee.

What Else You Need to Know

Administration and Federal Updates

- On February 9, the Department of Energy Announced the launch of a [Genesis Mission Consortium](#), comprised of the DOE, National Laboratories, private sector leaders, and academic institutions, to research areas including AI Model Development and Validation, Robotics, and High-Performance Computing and Cloud Infrastructure.
 - The Trump administration [announced](#) that it plans to use Google Gemini to draft regulation at the Department of Transportation (DOT). According to statements by DOT General Counsel Gregory Zerzan, the agency will be the first in a larger effort to incorporate AI in this manner as federal agencies seek to use the technology to speed up regulatory processes.
 - On February 6, the U.S. opted [not to sign](#) on to a non-binding agreement at the Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAM) Summit in Spain establishing principals for AI and warfare. Thirty-five other countries [signed](#) the declaration including Canada, the UK, and South Korea.
 - At the Privacy State of the Union conference, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Bureau of Consumer Protection Director Chris Mufarrige [stated](#) that "there's no appetite for anything AI-related" in the agency's rulemaking pipeline. Mufarrige said the FTC will pursue "much more sparing" rulemaking overall while maintaining focus on children's privacy enforcement through COPPA.
 - On January 27, the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office [signed](#) the Pax Silica Declaration, establishing a framework to deepen U.S.-Taiwan economic cooperation on AI. The declaration commits both parties to building an "economic security order based on trust, technological complementarity, shared interests."
 - On January 21, The White House posted a study on the impact of AI on the U.S. economy – [Artificial Intelligence and the Great Divergence](#) – arguing that the age of AI has the potential to create a second Great Divergence in global economies, similar to the Industrial Revolution and highlighting the administration's actions to win the "AI race."
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Hill Happenings

- On February 10, Senators Adam Schiff (D-CA) and John Curtis (R-UT) [introduced](#) the Copyright Labeling and Ethical AI Reporting (CLEAR) Act, which would require companies to disclose copyrighted works used to train generative AI models. The bill has garnered broad support from creative industry organizations including SAG-AFTRA, Directors Guild of America, Recording Industry Association of America, Authors Guild, and the American Federation of Musicians. However, detractors have pointed out challenges with implementation and onerous regulations.
- On February 9, a group of Democratic senators led by Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Pete Hegseth expressing concern over the Pentagon's decision to deploy xAI's Grok chatbot on its networks, citing Grok's track record of promoting Holocaust denial, spreading racist ideologies, and generating deepfake child pornography. The letter requests information on the Pentagon's AI usage guidance, mitigation steps for antisemitic or racist content, and data privacy protections for servicemembers.
- On February 9, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Brian Mast (R-FL) and Ranking Member Gregory Meeks (D-NY), along with six bipartisan lawmakers, sent a [letter urging](#) Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to impose countrywide export controls on semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China, rather than entity-specific restrictions. The lawmakers noted that "once equipment crosses the border into China, the U.S. government has extremely limited ability to enforce end-use and end-user restrictions."
- On February 4, Reps. August Pfluger (R-TX) and Rob Menendez (D-NJ) [introduced](#) the AI for Secure Networks Act, aimed at strengthening the security of U.S. telecommunications networks using AI. The bill directs the federal government to examine how AI can be responsibly used to improve network security and report to Congress on AI's potential for real-time threat and malware detection, among other items.
- On February 3, the House Ed & Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing titled "[Building an AI-Ready America: Adopting AI at Work](#)." Testimony highlighted both AI's benefits and employer misuse, exemplified by Amazon's alleged use of AI to track union activity and the algorithmic management tools used by 90% of surveyed employers. Key concerns included employee privacy violations from data selling, algorithmic discrimination in hiring, and enforcement capacity at understaffed agencies like the EEOC.
- On January 28, House China Select Committee Chairman John Moolenaar (R-MI) sent a [letter](#) to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick requesting on a briefing on how Commerce will enforce security guardrails for Nvidia H200 chip exports following a committee investigation showing DeepSeek is now integrated into People's Liberation Army systems, routes American user data to China, and manipulates outputs for CCP propaganda.
- On January 22, Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Tina Smith (D-MN) [wrote](#) a letter to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent urging the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) to open an "investigation into the financial stability risks posed by the rapid growth of debt connected to the AI industry."

International, State and Third-Party Perspectives

- On February 12, Anthropic [announced](#) a \$20 million donation to Public First Action, a super PAC opposing groups backed by OpenAI leaders and investors, setting up a midterm election battle over AI safety regulation. The contribution funds efforts to elect federal lawmakers favoring more extensive AI regulation, such as Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Pete Ricketts (R-NE),

countering super PACs backed by OpenAI and Andreessen Horowitz seeking to block AI regulation.

- On February 6, Democratic lawmakers in New York [introduced](#) a bill that would prevent the construction of new data centers for three years, in order to allow for studies on the impact of these developments on electric bills and the environment.
- On February 3, The Information Technology and Industry Council held its annual [Tech and Policy Summit](#) featuring administration leadership and CEOs across conversations from data centers and energy grids to American leadership and international partnerships.
- On January 21, Florida's Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee unanimously backed a [proposal](#) for an AI bill of rights. Included in the bill are provisions establishing rights for parents to control their children's interactions with AI, a right for people to know when they're communicating with AI, rules around use of names, images or likeness (NIL), and a right to know when political advertisements were created using AI.
- On January 21, Fairplay, The Consumer Federation of America, and the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) released a comprehensive framework to safeguard against harms from AI chatbots called the [People-First Model Chatbot Bill](#). The framework includes provisions such as limiting the use of personal data to profile users, granting individuals the right to sue for violations of privacy, and preventing companies from giving law enforcement access to chats without warrants.
- On January 20, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights [wrote](#) an open letter to U.S. tech companies urging them not to give in to pressures from the Trump administration to "forgo critical AI safeguards," "ignore the potential negative impacts" of AI technologies on users' civil rights, and "limit efforts to fight the spread of mis- and disinformation."

A Few Interesting Reads

- **A Social Network for A.I. Bots Only. No Humans Allowed.** ([The New York Times](#)): This month marked the launch of Moltbook, a new social network designed exclusively for AI agents. Researchers and engineers are closely monitoring the platform, observing and analyzing how these agents interact and communicate with one another.
- **CEOs Say AI Is Making Work More Efficient. Employees Tell a Different Story.** ([The Wall Street Journal](#)): A recent survey by AI consulting firm Section found that 40% of employees report no time saved each week from using AI, compared to just 2% of business leaders. This contrast underscores a gap between senior executives and workers in their experiences with AI and its impact on productivity in the workplace.
- **Anthropic pledges ad-free Claude, with a Super Bowl shot at ChatGPT** ([Axios](#)): Anthropic has announced that its AI chatbot Claude will remain ad-free, highlighting an emerging divide in generative AI business models over the use of advertising as a revenue stream.