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AMERICAN EDGE PROJECT

American Edge Project

2024 Toolkit

Learn more:
Americanedgeproject.org



AmericanEdgeProject



AmericanEdge

Dear Members of Congress,

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to representing the interests of the American people. As the second session of the 118th Congress begins, the American Edge Project (AEP), a coalition dedicated to the proposition that American technology and innovation are an essential part of the United States' economic health, national security, and individual freedoms, is committed to working together to strengthen American technology and secure our nation's standing as a global leader in innovation.

The United States has been a leader in technology and innovation for decades, playing a vital role in protecting our national security, promoting democratic values, creating opportunities for people, and supporting the country's economy and small businesses.

However, as we look to 2024 and beyond, it's clear that maintaining our leadership in this critical space is more crucial than ever before. The consequences of falling behind could be detrimental as we face challenges, such as the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI), increased cyberattacks, and the growing boldness of our adversaries, particularly China.

We have witnessed a surge in cyberattacks, espionage campaigns and hacking attempts by China. In 2023 alone, a Chinese [spy balloon](#) traversed the United States collecting sensitive U.S. information, a state-sponsored Chinese hacking group was caught [spying](#) on critical infrastructure, a [Chinese spy base](#) emerged just 100 miles off America's coast, state-backed Chinese groups [hacked](#) into the email accounts of top U.S. officials from the Departments of State and Commerce, and Chinese malware [infiltrated](#) U.S. military operations and communications. In a recent interview, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Wray [said](#) China is running "the biggest hacking program in the world by far, bigger than every other major nation combined."

On top of these reports, new technological advancements, such as AI, have intensified the tech race between the United States and China. AI has immense potential and can transform every sector, from agriculture and healthcare to military and defense. A report by [PwC](#) estimates the global economic contribution of AI to be \$15 trillion by 2030, with China and North America projected to be the biggest winners in terms of financial gain. Data from [Bloomberg](#) also shows China is accelerating its lead over the United States in AI patent filings – applying for 80 percent more patents than U.S. entities in 2022.

Faced with threats from foreign competitors, the United States needs a strong technology industry to accelerate innovation. Leading in future technology, such as AI, quantum computing, and cyber defense, ensures our military is underpinned by U.S. technology, allows American businesses to gain economic benefits and advantages, helps export our American values to set the rules and standards for technology, and ultimately secures our position as the global technology leader.

But America's leadership in technology is being threatened like never before on three fronts:

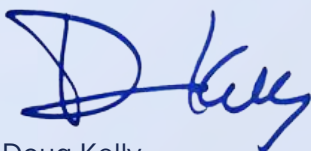
- First, as Congressional investigations have shown, China has a three-part plan to become the global tech leader, which includes building up their own capabilities, stealing American technology and business secrets, and making the world more dependent on its technology for economic and political leverage. If American small businesses become overly reliant on China-controlled technology, they risk losing their intellectual property, putting confidential customer data in reach of a foreign government, and suffering from crippling supply chain disruptions.
- Second, the European Union (EU) is also targeting American innovators with stringent regulations, including the Digital Markets Act (DMA), new AI laws, and other measures designed to undermine American competitiveness. Many of these laws barely impact Chinese or EU tech companies.
- Thirdly, anti-innovation policies currently being considered by Congress and various agencies risk undermining domestic technology development and jeopardizing America's ability to compete with China in the coming years and decades. If China takes a commanding lead in technological development – especially due to our own actions – not only will it reap trillions in economic gain, but it could [gain an edge](#) over the United States and all the west when it comes to national security, including in cybersecurity, surveillance, autonomous weapons, drone warfare, intelligence analysis and other AI-driven military applications.

It matters greatly which country builds the future. U.S. technology companies, guided by democratic values, serve as a formidable force against the rise of China and the export of authoritarianism through Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-backed technology. China's tech companies have fundamentally different values and are tightly intertwined with the CCP's view of a closed, censored internet. Authoritarian values are not the principles we want to lead the world. We cannot afford to lose the tech race to countries that don't share our values and have proven to use technology against both us and our allies.

To harness American exceptionalism and secure our global technological leadership, Congress should pursue smart policy solutions that strengthen U.S. technology, support innovation, and further advance democracy. That's why we are sharing with you this 2024 Toolkit on Protecting America's Technology Edge – so you'll have the facts and information necessary to accelerate America's innovation capabilities.

The stakes are high. The world is counting on America to get it right.

Sincerely,



Doug Kelly
CEO, American Edge Project

About the American Edge Project

Who We Are

The American Edge Project is a coalition dedicated to the proposition that American innovators are an essential part of U.S. economic health, national security, and individual freedoms.

The coalition and its members tell the story about the positive impact technology and innovation have on America's economy and businesses, particularly small ones, and how they enhance freedom of expression and our nation's overall security.

Our Pillars

Economic Growth

America's innovators support tens of millions of jobs across the country. U.S. tech tools benefit businesses and organizations of all sizes by bringing their products to a broad consumer base around the world. Preserving an open and accessible internet is a critical component of conveying innovative ideas, building new organizations, inventing new goods and services, growing new businesses, reaching new customers, and developing new sectors.

National Security

As a global leader in innovation, America's technology industry has strengthened our country's ability to protect our citizens, defend our allies, articulate our principles of freedom, expression and association, and encourage developing democracies. Policies that forfeit our competitive edge to foreign adversaries – particularly those that are state-owned or directed – put the safety, privacy, and liberty of free people and governments at risk.

Open & Accessible Internet

American innovators underpin an internet that is open, accessible, and welcoming of free expression. Not everyone around the world experiences or values those qualities. Some countries – with fundamentally different principles – believe in and want to export a closed, censored internet, and use it to arrest and imprison citizens for political, social or religious speech online.

Importance of Maintaining America's Edge

Anti-innovation legislation could handcuff U.S. tech innovation and lead to unintended consequences that would harm our national and economic security. That's why it is vital U.S. policymakers look to smart policy solutions that strengthen America's ability to innovate, protect our national security, and promote a democratic and open internet. It matters who builds the future. The stakes are high.

By The Numbers: Impact of the Technology Industry on the U.S. Economy

9,156,390

Tech jobs in 2022.

2x

Estimated tech occupation growth over the next 10 years is expected to grow twice the overall employment rate.

\$1.97 Trillion

Direct economic impact.

95%

Of U.S. small businesses use at least one technology platform.

\$100,615

Median tech wage in the U.S.

75%

Of U.S. small businesses rely on digital tools to navigate tough economic conditions.

103%

Higher than the median national wage.

85%

Of U.S. small enterprises agree digital tools are important for the success of their businesses.

40,507

New tech businesses created in 2022.

87%

Of U.S. small businesses reported increased efficiency due to technology platforms.

Negative Impact of Anti-Innovation Bills

Technology supports a robust and thriving economy, but misguided anti-innovation legislation in Congress could undermine America's domestic tech sector, harming our economic and national security. As of the most recent [data](#), if anti-innovation bills were passed, it would result in the following.

\$109 Billion

Estimated [cost](#) to public sector workers' pension plans.

\$319 Billion

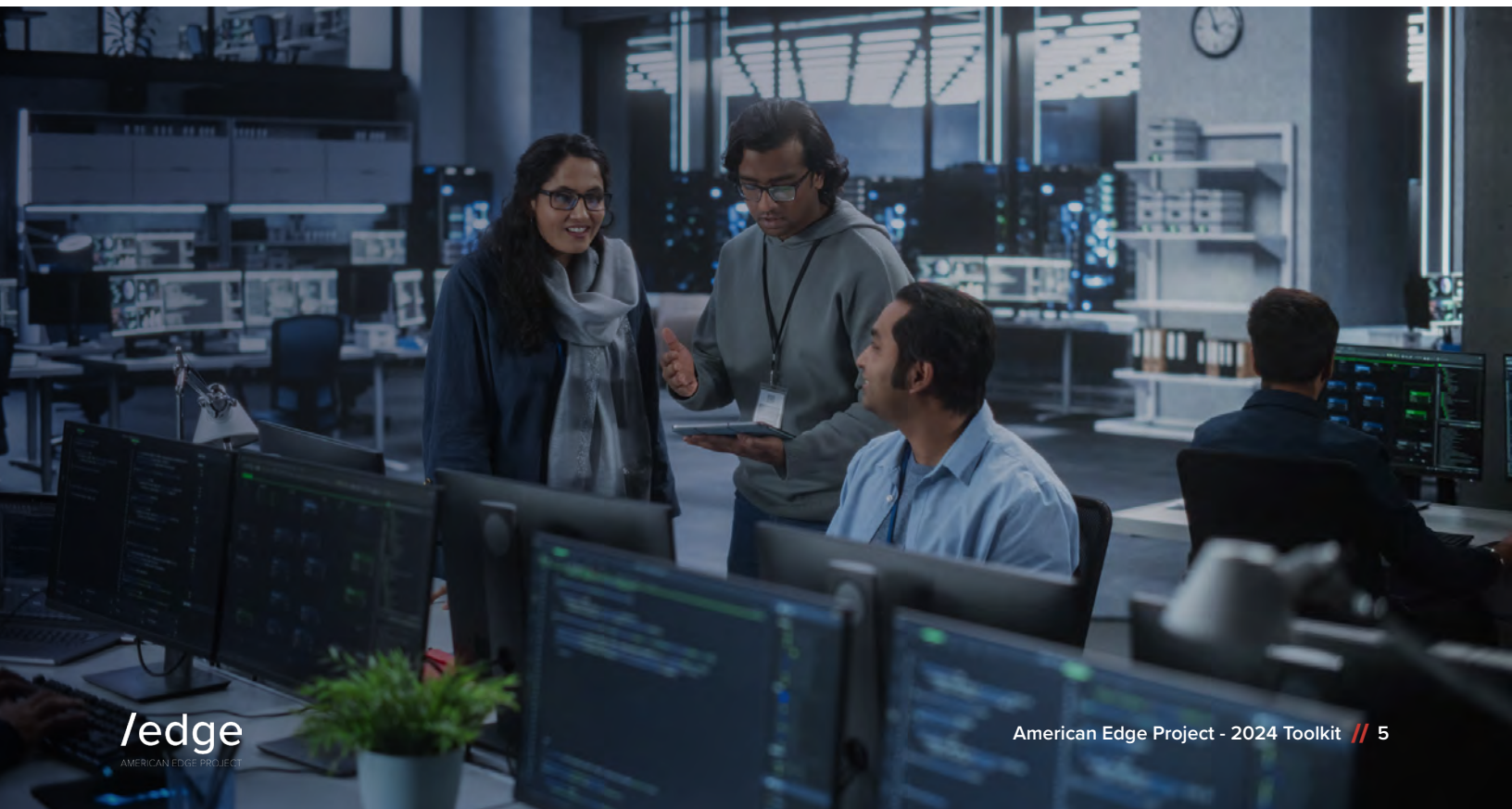
Estimated [cost](#) to the economy.

\$500 Billion

[Loss in sales](#) that small and medium-sized retail businesses ("SMB Sellers") would sustain in roughly the first five years after the passage of anti-innovative legislation.

5.2% loss of sales

Anti-innovation legislation would informally amount to a "[regulatory tax](#)" of 5.2% on SMB Sellers (costing an average of \$1,712 per SMB Seller per month).



Americans Want Congress to Focus on Key Priorities, Not Anti-Innovation Bills

Voters rate regulating U.S. tech companies as a comparatively low priority (51 percent), below all other issues tested. Instead, Americans want their representatives to focus on the following priorities.

88%

[Inflation and cost of living](#)

86%

[Protecting America's national security](#)

85%

[Jobs and the economy](#)

83%

[Lowering gas prices](#)

82%

[Health care](#)



**Read the
full poll here.**

87%

Are [concerned](#) that restricting American tech companies from developing innovative new products could make the U.S. less economically competitive.

84%

Are [concerned](#) that American small businesses that rely on tech platforms to reach consumers could be hurt because they could be forced to spend more money to attract customers.

84%

Are [concerned](#) that American small businesses could have to pay more for online advertising, which could make it more expensive for them to operate their business and get new customers.

The Impact Of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI is a prospective game-changer in solving some of the greatest challenges facing our planet, and leaps in this technology could reshape entire sectors of the economy across the globe. If we rush to pass policies that tie the hands of U.S. innovators, like Europe is doing, we run the risk of sacrificing trillions in economic gains and ceding America's edge in AI leadership to China.

\$87 Billion

The projected [market size](#) of AI in the United States in 2023.

\$15.7 Trillion

Estimated [added contribution](#) to the global economy by 2030.

14.5%

Boost in America's [GDP](#) from AI by 2030.

26%

Boost in China's [GDP](#) from AI by 2030.

80%

More AI-related patents were [filed](#) by China in 2022 than the United States.

One in four

U.S. small businesses [reported](#) using AI.

75%

Of small businesses are [utilizing](#) AI tools for an expansive range of business functions.

84%

Of small business owners [plan to continue](#) their investments in AI over the next 12 months.

76%

Of small business owners [report](#) that AI is freeing both the business owner and their employees of time to focus on high-value tasks.

93%

Of small business owners [report](#) that AI tools offer cost-effective solutions that drive savings and improve profitability.

85%

Of small businesses [agree](#) that the government must balance AI regulation and innovation.

What They Are Saying: Artificial Intelligence



U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-IN):

“It is the values of the United States of America that should be embedded in and inform the development of these technologies, not the values of the CCP.”



U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI):

“AI is here, and it is already being put to good use. Many of these systems are not developed by the government, but rather the private sector. Over half of the AI tools used by federal agencies have been purchased from commercial vendors. This collaboration between the public and the private sector is crucial. It ensures that government is using the most effective AI systems. American companies are breaking new ground with these technologies, and we have a chance to share in the benefits of this incredible innovation.”



U.S. Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA):

“If China wins the AI arms race, their ability to steal technology and harm not just our country but the free world will be permanent. American AI development must be done carefully and ethically to respect the values that make us different than the Chinese adversaries.”



U.S. Representative Hank Johnson (D-GA):

“The People’s Republic of China (PRC) can use AI to increase its authoritarian hold of people, advance its cyber espionage strategy and interfere with elections, which will undermine competition and innovation worldwide.”



U.S. Representative Jerry Nadler (D-NY):

“The PRC has manipulated the free market and used outright illegal means to acquire other nations’ intellectual property. There have been acquisitions of new technologies through theft, cyber espionage and other forms of subterfuge as part of China’s national security and economic strategy.”



U.S. Representative Deborah Ross (D-NC):

“Our country has been on the cutting edge of science and technology for decades, and in order to maintain this position while competing with China, we need to harness the power of AI.”



U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA):

“Unleashing AI can strengthen U.S. economic and technological leadership across the board, but there are also challenges. It is critical that America, not China, addresses these challenges and lead in AI development and deployment.”



U.S. Representative Neal Dunn (R-FL):

“It is critical that we maintain a competitive edge in acquiring and developing this [AI] technology in America.”



U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO):

“As we think about the implementation here [in AI], we have to root it in democracy.”



The Impact Of Technology In The States

American technology has a significant impact on our states, communities, and to our combined prosperity, creating opportunities for individuals to join the tech workforce, small business owners to run and operate their small business, and entrepreneurs to raise capital for their innovations and startups. Below is tech data for the top five most populous states.

CALIFORNIA



Tech Employment Impact:

- [1,487,864](#) net tech employment
- [\\$535.9 billion](#) economic impact
- [First](#) in net tech employment
- [Second](#) net tech employment jobs added

Small Businesses:

- [4.2 million](#) small businesses employing [7.4 million](#) employees
- Small businesses represent [99.8%](#) of California businesses
- [72%](#) of small business owners increased their use of digital tools during Covid-19

Anti-Innovation Bills On Public Pensions:

California's day-one impact of anti-innovation legislation is \$961.5 million, costing an average of \$261 per member. The long-term impact of anti-innovation legislation is \$23.6 billion for 3,683,018 retirees, costing an average of [\\$6,419](#).

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:

From 2017-2021, [20,025](#) California-based startups raised venture funding and received [\\$435.6 billion](#) to fund their innovative ideas and grow their businesses.

TEXAS

Tech Employment Impact:

- [867,278](#) net tech employment
- [\\$158.7 billion](#) economic impact
- [Second](#) in net tech employment
- [First](#) in net tech employment jobs added

Small Businesses:

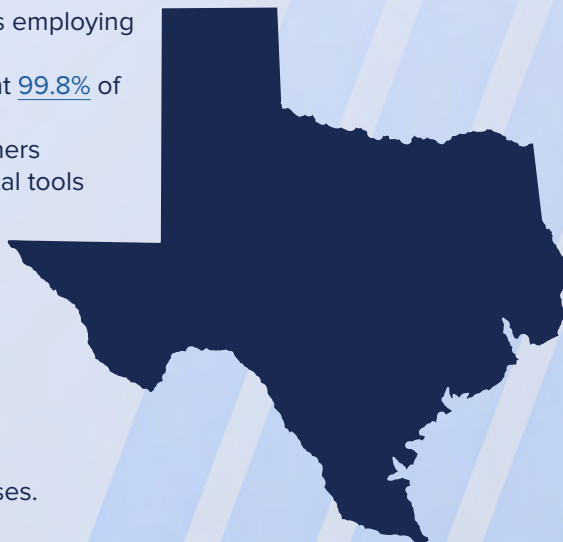
- [3.1 million](#) small businesses employing [4.9 million](#) employees
- Small businesses represent [99.8%](#) of Texas businesses
- [68%](#) of small business owners increased their use of digital tools during Covid-19

Anti-Innovation Bills On Public Pensions:

Texas' day-one impact of anti-innovation legislation is \$213 million, costing an average of \$90 per member. The long-term impact of anti-innovation legislation is \$7.5 billion for 2,353,166 retirees, costing an average of [\\$3,187](#).

TX Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:

From 2017-2021, [3,087](#) Texas-based startups raised venture funding and received [\\$21.21 billion](#) to fund their innovative ideas and grow their businesses.



FLORIDA

Tech Employment Impact:

- [484,593](#) net tech employment
- [\\$79.9 billion](#) economic impact
- [Fourth](#) in net tech employment
- [Third](#) in net tech employment jobs added

Small Businesses:

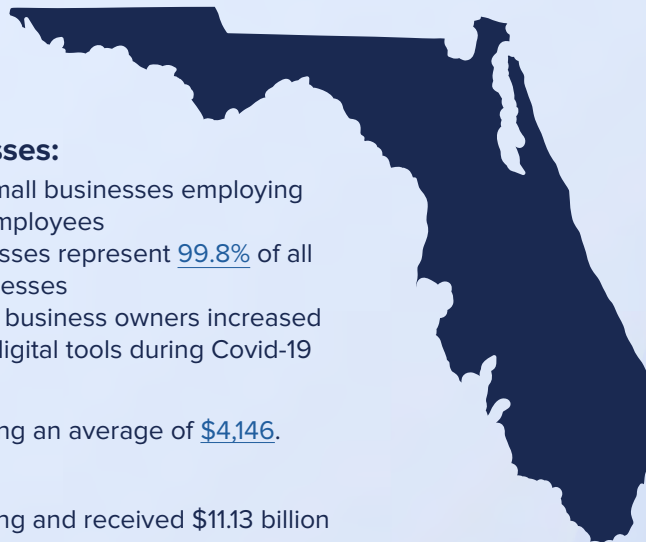
- [3.0 million](#) small businesses employing [3.6 million](#) employees
- Small businesses represent [99.8%](#) of all Florida businesses
- [68%](#) of small business owners increased their use of digital tools during Covid-19

Anti-Innovation Bills On Public Pensions:

Florida's long-term impact is \$4.4 billion for 1,063,195 retirees, costing an average of [\\$4,146](#).

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:

From 2015-2020, [1,659](#) Florida-based startups raised venture funding and received \$11.13 billion to fund their innovative ideas and grow their businesses.



NEW YORK

Tech Employment Impact:

- [535,457](#) net tech employment
- [\\$146.2 billion](#) economic impact
- [Third](#) in net tech employment
- [Fourth](#) in net tech employment jobs added

Small Businesses:

- [2.3 million](#) small businesses employ [4.1 million](#) employees
- Small businesses represent [99.8%](#) of all New York businesses
- [71%](#) of small business owners increased their use of digital tools during Covid-19

Anti-Innovation Bills On Public Pensions:

New York's day-one impact of anti-innovation legislation is \$1.5 billion, costing an average of \$663 per member. The long-term impact of anti-innovation legislation is \$13.6 billion for 2,261,090 retirees, costing an average of [\\$6,001](#).

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:

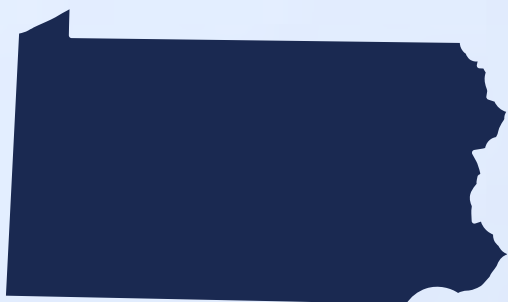
From 2017-2021, [7,321](#) New York-based startups raised venture funding and received [\\$116.5 billion](#) to fund their innovative ideas and grow their businesses.



PENNSYLVANIA

Tech Employment Impact:

- [300,447](#) net tech employment
- [\\$51.3 billion](#) economic impact
- [Ninth](#) in net tech employment
- [Eighth](#) in net tech employment jobs added



Small Businesses:

- [1.1 million](#) small businesses employing [2.6 million](#) employees
- Small businesses represent [99.6%](#) of Pennsylvania businesses
- [67%](#) of small business owners increased their use of digital tools during Covid-19

Anti-Innovation Bills On Public Pensions:

Pennsylvania's day-one impact of anti-innovation legislation is \$52 million, costing an average of \$63 per member. The long-term impact of anti-innovation legislation is [\\$2.6 billion](#) for 828,931 retirees, costing an average of \$3,222.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:

From 2017-2021, [1,427](#) Pennsylvania-based startups raised venture funding and received [\\$15.81 billion](#) to fund their innovative ideas and grow their businesses.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Policy Pillars

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Policy Pillar: Economy

Innovation is the lifeblood of America's economy and the underpinning of our national prosperity and security. For generations, the United States has led the world in pioneering innovative technologies that create opportunity, improve quality of life, and foster economic growth and prosperity. However, America's global leadership in this critical space is being challenged by foreign adversaries, namely China. Nations around the globe are implementing campaigns aimed at overtaking America in producing the innovative technologies of tomorrow.

At the same time - right here in America - many of our elected officials in Congress are pursuing shortsighted policies that threaten to undermine our technological edge and weaken the ability of our businesses and creators to compete on the world stage.

Economic Advisory Board Members



Saxby Chambliss

Former U.S. Senator (R-GA)

Saxby Chambliss served in the U.S. Senate for two terms and served as vice chair of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

"If China succeeds in winning the tech race, it will capture trillions of dollars in economic value, make the world increasingly dependent on its technology and supply chains, and secure a critical military edge that would undermine the national security of the United States and our allies."



Kent Conrad

Former U.S. Senator (D-ND)

Kent Conrad was a former U.S. Senator who represented North Dakota from 1992 to 2013. He served as Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

"Technology serves as the cornerstone of America's economic might and is indispensable for national security. Every day, U.S. entrepreneurs and tech firms create new products and services that generate jobs, accelerate economic growth – and enhance how we work, live and connect. This will only grow more consequential as emerging capabilities, namely artificial intelligence, quantum computing and biotechnology fundamentally transform society in the coming years."



Learn More

Read our economic policy agenda

"An Economic Policy Agenda To Accelerate Innovation" [here](#).

Read our white paper

in partnership with the Competitive Enterprise Institute "A Global Antitrust Paradox?" [here](#).

Policy Pillar: National Security

As a global leader in innovation, the United States has strengthened its ability to protect its citizens, defend its allies, articulate our principles of freedom, expression and association, and encourage developing democracies. Policies that forfeit our competitive edge to foreign entities – particularly those that are state-owned or directed – put the safety, privacy, and liberty of free people and governments at risk.

Despite stark warnings from national security leaders, some in Congress are pursuing anti-innovation legislation that targets our domestic technology sector – a key player in our national security and cyber defense strategy. The U.S. technology sector is instrumental in the effort to advance our national security capabilities and detect and deter future cyber threats and uphold secure networks and cyber protections.

National Security Advisory Board



Frances Townsend

Former White House Counterterrorism and Homeland Security Advisor

Frances Townsend previously served as Chair of the Homeland Security Council and one of President George W. Bush's top advisors

"America's adversaries are determined to erode our competitive edge and they are investing heavily in research and development to achieve that goal. If they succeed, they will weaponize the world's most powerful technologies to surveil, censor, and undermine freedom and liberty around the globe. We cannot allow that to happen."



Michael J. Morell

Former Acting Director and Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

Morell served as Deputy Director of the CIA for over three years. Michael also served twice as Acting Director.

"We are locked in a high-stakes tech race with China. And the decisions our leaders and policymakers make right now will help determine the outcome of that race — and the future of the free world. America's leaders must focus their efforts on accelerating domestic innovation if we are going to succeed in thwarting China's global ambitions. There's too much at stake to get this wrong."



General Joseph F. Dunford Jr.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Joe Dunford served as the 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"China's deliberate plans to supplant the United States as the world leader in technology and innovation pose a clear and present threat to our security, economic prosperity, and our very way of life. If we are going to succeed in this competition with China, we will need to unleash America's private sector and maximize its powerful innovation capabilities."



Learn More

Read our national security policy framework [here](#).

Read our white paper

in partnership with the Lexington Institute "U.S. National Security Requires A Robust, Innovative Tech Sector" [here](#).

Policy Pillar: Open & Accessible Internet

American innovators underpin an internet that is open, accessible, and welcoming of free expression. Not everyone around the world experiences those qualities. Some countries – with fundamentally different values – believe in a closed, censored internet, and use it to arrest and imprison citizens for political, social, or religious speech online.

American technology protects our citizens, defends our allies, and articulates our principles of freedom, expression, and association, while empowering millions of citizens around the world to make their voices heard.

To maintain America's edge, we need a smart policy approach that doesn't weaken companies that share American values as they compete in the global marketplace. As policymakers consider the rules and laws that govern innovators, we urge them to protect American values of openness, accessibility, and freedom of expression as essential contributors to America's competitive advantage.

Values Advisory Board



U.S. Representative Greg Walden

Former U.S. Congressman (R-OR)

Greg Walden served as chair of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"I am a firm believer in Americans' First Amendment rights. The United States' unrivaled commitment to freedom of expression is foundational to our entrepreneurial spirit and economic prosperity. It is more important than ever for our leaders to strengthen America's competitive edge in technology and ensure the internet remains a vibrant ecosystem that reflects our core values of openness, accessibility and free expression."



U.S. Representative Loretta Sanchez

Former U.S. Congressman (D-CA)

Loretta Sanchez served as vice chair of the U.S. House Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security.

"An open, accessible internet plays a pivotal role in fostering freedom, individual rights, and a vibrant and healthy democracy. Meanwhile, our foreign adversaries, namely China and Russia, are determined to supplant America's global technological leadership so they can advance a vision for an internet that is rooted in censorship, misinformation and surveillance. That is why our leaders must come together to strengthen American innovation. We simply can't afford to lose the race for the technologies of the future to countries that don't share our values."



Learn More

Read our open and accessible internet policy agenda

"How American Values Can Keep The Global Internet Free, Open And Accessible" [here](#).

Read an op-ed by AEP's board and advisors

"Celebrating Free Speech Week: Why America Must Lead In Protecting Internet Freedom" [here](#).



The Growing Threat of Adversaries

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Competition with China

The United States is in a high-stakes race with China for global tech leadership. China now constitutes America's greatest geopolitical rival in a number of different areas, including economically, militarily, technologically and ideologically, and is [leading](#) the United States in AI-related patents as well as 37 out of 44 critical technologies.

American tech companies remain preeminent on the global stage and continue to be a driving force behind important breakthroughs in emerging technology, but China is quickly catching up and is determined to undermine the United States' technological superiority.

China wants to be the sole global superpower by 2040, and technology is central to that strategy. Through the rise of AI and the increase in cyberattacks, espionage and theft, Beijing is expanding its influence and gaining dominance over the technology sector. FBI Director Christopher Wray [warned](#) of the rising threat – calling China out for running the world's largest and most sophisticated hacking operation that is threatening “American jobs, American families, American livelihoods.” The CCP also outlined a plan to lead the world in [AI by 2030](#), and it has attempted to realize this vision through deep [private](#) and [public](#) investments in the field. If China becomes the global leader in AI, it will use this new technology to export digital authoritarianism.

It matters which country leads in innovation and sets the tech standards for the future. The internet, AI and future technologies can be controlled by the U.S. and western partners, which value a free and open internet, or by authoritarian regimes, such as China and Russia, which use technology to surveil and control its citizens.

To compete with this rising threat, Washington should support U.S. technology and ensure that new emerging technologies, such as data surveillance, artificial intelligence and patent reform, come from the United States. If not, and we cede our leadership and hand the keys to the internet to Chinese President Xi Jinping, we risk jeopardizing our economic and national security as well as democratic freedoms across the globe.

Learn More



Read the Lexington Institute report

in partnership with AEP “The New Arsenal Of Democracy: The U.S. Commercial High-Tech Industry’s Role In Countering The China Threat” [here](#).



Read the Atlantic Council’s report

in partnership with AEP “Standardizing The Future: How Can The United States Navigate The Geopolitics Of International Technology Standards?” [here](#).

U.S. & European Views Of Rising Tech Threats From China & Russia

The United States and Europe have a long history of cooperating on a wide range of issues of mutual interest – and technology has been no exception. However, in recent years, a host of controversial regulatory and enforcement proposals have emerged, threatening to jeopardize the scope and focus of transatlantic cooperation. AEP polling reveals that U.S. and European voters remain aligned on common values and share mutual concern about the growing technological threats posed by China and Russia.



81% in U.S.

Voters [agree](#) that China and Russia's growing technological influence threatens their country's national security.

80% in U.S.

Voters [agree](#) that China and Russia's growing technological influence threatens their country's economy.

83% in U.S.

Western voters [agree](#) allies in the U.S. and Europe should work together against common threats and against common adversaries.

86% in U.S.

Voters are [concerned](#) about Europe and the U.S. passing laws that more heavily regulate each other's technology sectors, which would create a vacuum for China to fill with its technology.

87% in U.S.

Voters across the Atlantic [oppose](#) regulations that would undermine American and European technology and advantage China.



74% in Europe

73% in Europe

79% in Europe

79% in Europe

78% in Europe



9 in 10 Voters

Are concerned about Russian cyberattacks on their country's critical infrastructure (95% in U.S., 92% in Europe).



9 in 10 Voters

Are concerned about Chinese cyberattacks on their country's critical infrastructure (94% in U.S., 93% in Europe).

Quick Facts: The Growing Threat of China



China leads the United States in 37 out of 44 critical technologies, spanning defense, space, robotics, energy, the environment, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, advanced materials and key quantum technology areas, according to the [Australian Strategic Policy Institute](#) (ASPI).



FBI Director Christopher Wray [warned](#) that Chinese hackers outnumber the FBI's cyber team 50 to one.



Wray [said](#) China had “a bigger hacking program than that of every other major nation combined,” which, together with Beijing’s physical spies and the stealing of trade secrets from private businesses and research institutions, gave the country enormous power.



Over the past decade, Chinese researchers have published a growing share of the world’s top [five percent](#) AI publications, rising from half of U.S. output in 2010 to parity in 2019.



Between 2010 and 2019, China’s share of [AI publications](#) grew from 13 percent to 31 percent, while the U.S. share fell from 55 percent to 51 percent.



In the 2023 Freedom of Net [report](#), China ranks as the worst environment for internet freedom for the ninth year in a row.



The top U.S. cybersecurity official [warned](#) that China’s cyber espionage and sabotage capacities are an “epoch-defining threat.”



In an open-ended [question](#) allowing Americans to name which country they see as the greatest threat to the United States, 50 percent name China.

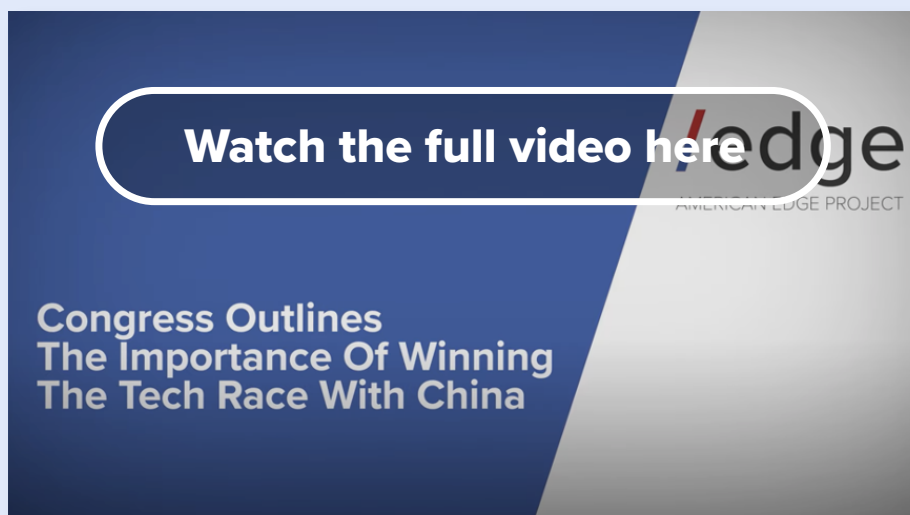


U.S. intelligence leaders [told](#) lawmakers that the CCP remained the “most consequential threat” to U.S. national security.



A record level of Americans (58 percent) [view](#) China’s development as a world power as a critical threat to the vital interest of the United States.

What They Are Saying



U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher (R-WI)
chair of the U.S. House Select Committee on China

“The CCP is laser-focused on its vision for the future, a world crowded with techno-totalitarian surveillance states.”



U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)
ranking member of the U.S. House Select Committee on China

“The goal of the CCP has become clear to displace U.S. and other competitors, especially in tomorrow’s strategic industries.”



U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
chair of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce

“It’s no secret that the CCP wants to replace the United States as a global economic and technological power. Whether it’s artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, or smart devices, China wants to dominate these new and emerging technologies.”



U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

“The CCP will stop at nothing to undermine our global leadership and weaken our economy.”



U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

“China has the ambition of becoming the dominant country and self-sufficient in key leading-edge technologies, and they have a plan to do it.”



U.S. Representative Darin LaHood (R-IL)

“It has become more clear to me than ever that China has a plan to replace the United States, and they’re working at it every day. Replace our economy, replace us in technology, replace us when it comes to national security, in the military and diplomatically.”



U.S. Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA)

“The CCP is a threat to the United States. It is the threat of our lifetime.”



U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY)

ranking member of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs

“Now the People’s Republic of China and its policies clearly present the greatest geopolitical challenge that the United States faces today.”



U.S. Representative Mike McCaul (R-TX)

chair of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs

“There’s no doubt that the growing aggression of the CCP poses a generational threat to the United States. From using a spy balloon to surveil some of America’s most sensitive military sites to their theft of upwards of \$600 billions of American intellectual property every year, most of which goes into their military.”



U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)

“Making sure that we are supporting our efforts to make sure that the Western companies and Western technology are ultimately being able to keep pace with Chinese technologies.”



U.S. Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL)

“The CCP has dramatically increased the export of surveillance technology abroad.”



U.S. Representative Kat Cammack (R-FL)

“We are innovators. From the space race to deployment of the internet, the United States has been an international leader on scientific innovation and achieving a free-market model paired with our national creative quotient, including private R&D efforts, no doubt drives much of our success as a leader in the world.”



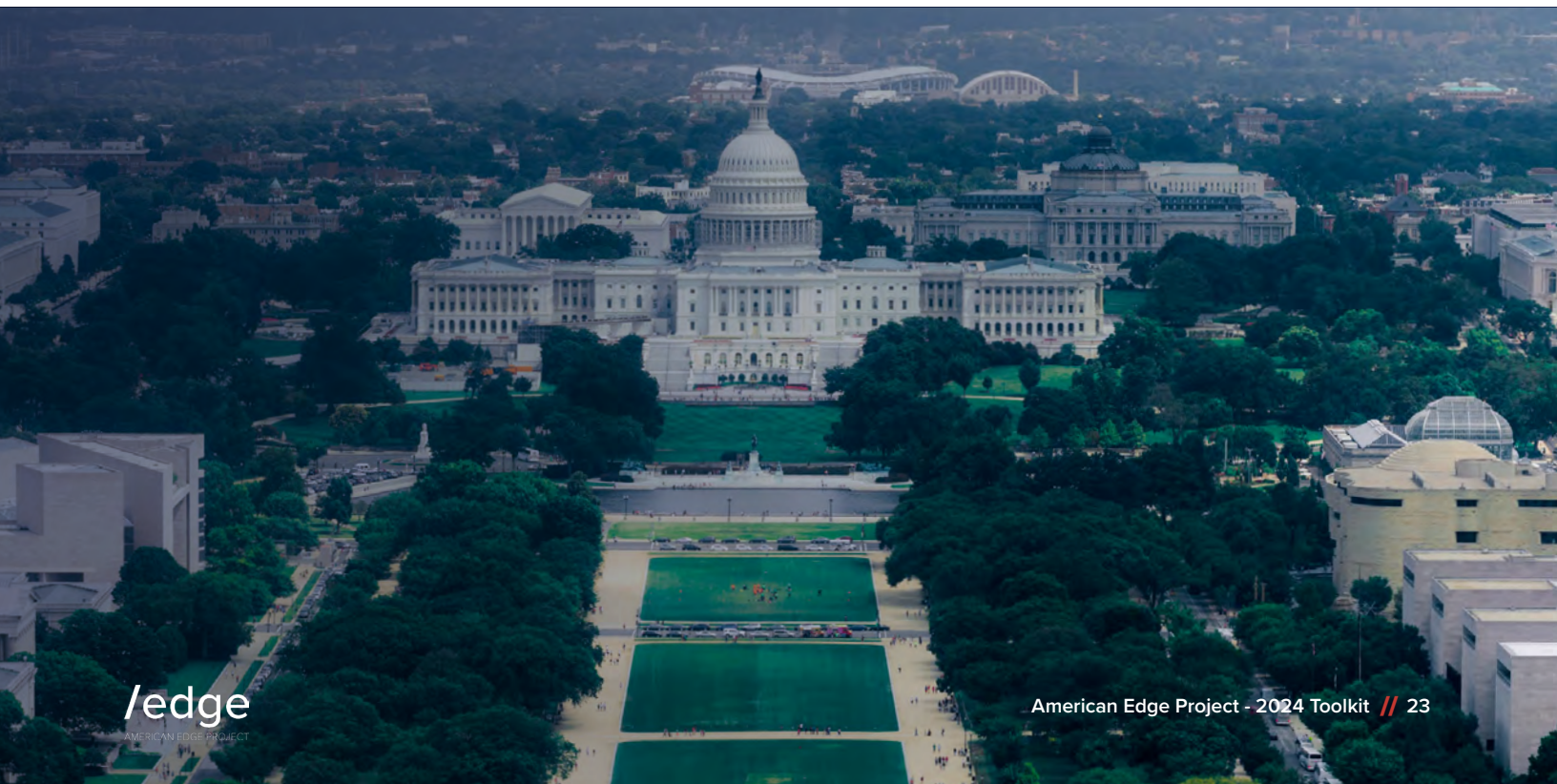
U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

“Here is the reality, we have got to preserve and expand this advantage by ensuring that the United States, not countries like China, writes the rules of the road for this new transformative technology.”



U.S. Representative Greg Stanton (D-AZ)

“That’s why I’m gravely concerned about the theft of American intellectual property by the PRC. Last fall, FBI Director Wray warned that not only does Chinese IP theft threaten these companies’ bottom lines, but it jeopardizes our economic competitiveness and national security.”



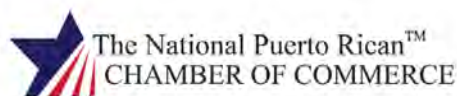
A photograph of two women in a professional setting. One woman, with dark curly hair, is leaning over a desk, looking at a laptop. The other woman, with blonde curly hair and glasses, is sitting at the desk, looking at the laptop. They appear to be in a meeting or collaborative work environment. The image has a blue tint and a red diagonal stripe in the top left corner.

Who We Are

/edge

AMERICAN EDGE PROJECT

Our Members



Our Leadership

CEO



Doug Kelly

CEO of American Edge Project

Doug Kelly serves as the CEO and main spokesperson for the American Edge Project.

"American technology is a critical foundation of our nation's economic prosperity and national security. Our adversaries – China and Russia in particular – are working hard to supplant America's technological edge and weaponize the technologies of tomorrow to surveil, censor and undermine freedom around the globe. We can't allow that to happen. That is why lawmakers must work diligently to strengthen, not undercut, American technology."

Board Members



Bradley A. Smith

Chairman and Founder, Institute for Free Speech

Smith previously served as a commissioner on the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and was elected as vice chairman in 2003 and chairman in 2004.

"The United States has led the world for 30 years in advocating for and advancing a free and open internet. This vision, deeply rooted in American values, has democratized information, given a voice to billions, spurred opportunity and entrepreneurship on a global scale, and made education and learning more accessible than at any time in history. America's version of the internet is a powerful force for good."



Chris P. Carney

Former Member of Congress (D-PA)

Carney served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security, and as chairman of the Management, Investigations, and Oversight Subcommittee.

"As countries continue to engage in the theft of American intellectual property—and as experts continue to warn about how foreign actors are attempting to interfere in our institutions – we must be sure that we do not lose the edge that U.S.-based technology companies provide to our national security."



Susana Martinez

Former Governor (R-NM)

Susana Martinez was the first female Governor of New Mexico and the first Hispanic female governor in the history of the United States.

"Technological innovation is the backbone of America's economy. For more than 80 years, the United States has led the world in pioneering the breakthrough technology that has improved quality of life, created opportunity, and fostered economic growth and prosperity. However, the future of American leadership in innovation and technological development is now being called into question. Foreign nations are working hard to supplant us as the world's most innovative economy. We cannot allow that to happen."

In The Media

Read some of the latest op-eds by American Edge Project.



Read an op-ed by AEP's CEO "This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, Spy Chiefs Warn Of China's Expanded Efforts To Steal Technologies" [here](#).



Read an op-ed by AEP's national security advisors "To Win The Tech Race Against China, America Must Engage The Private Sector" [here](#).



Read an op-ed by AEP's economic advisors "Europe's Digital Markets Act: A Cautionary Tale For U.S. Policymakers" [here](#).



Read an op-ed by AEP's economic advisors "China's AI Dominance Should Be A Wake-Up Call For Us All" [here](#).



Read an op-ed by Doug Kelly "Will Regulators 'Red Flag' Artificial Intelligence Innovation" [here](#).



Read an op-ed by AEP's national security advisors "As U.S. Positions With China, We Must Prioritize Technological Advantage Over Diplomatic Wins" [here](#).