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February 14, 2025

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
231 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 956 (Wilson) - Consumer Protection - Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation - Favorable

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share comments on HB 956, which establishes the Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and the algorithms that often support artificial intelligence have generated policymaker interest. We acknowledge that as technological advances emerge, policymakers' understanding of how these technologies work is vital for responsible policymaking. Our member companies are committed to responsible AI development and use. TechNet will advocate for a federal AI framework that brings uniformity to all Americans regardless of where they live, encourages innovation, and ensures that consumers are protected.

TechNet encourages the creation of AI task forces with robust industry participation. These task forces establish lines of communication, provide industry expertise on AI, and allow for the development of consensus frameworks on reasonable AI regulations. We also advocate for small businesses having the opportunities to participate on AI task forces to ensure SMBs can access the benefits of AI technology.

We believe that task forces on AI allow for thoughtful consideration of complex issues. Technology, and artificial intelligence especially, is constantly evolving and it is critical we don't rush regulations without considering possible unintended consequences. We encourage lawmakers to strike the appropriate balance between consumer protection and business innovation and investment. Thank you for your work on this important issue and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Durkin

Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic