Opening Statement
Ranking Member Mitt Romney
U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT
"ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY: EXAMINING THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY"
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Thank you, Chair Hassan, for holding a hearing on this important topic. I look forward to this discussion about risks to national security from advanced technology such as AI and examining how the United States can best mitigate those risks.

Technological innovation is a pillar of American strength. We must keep in mind the role that the private sector plays in creating and maintaining America's competitive advantage, especially as China seeks to gain supremacy in technology.

At the same time, AI is rapidly advancing, all the while becoming increasingly integrated into daily life. While AI can be used for good, it also has a concerning potential for misuse. Many in the tech community have acknowledged "profound risks to society and humanity" posed by AI.

Experts say it can be weaponized by bad actors. Perhaps AI could be used to build biological or chemical weapons, or to launch cyber-attacks against critical infrastructure like the electric grid.

AI systems often lack "explainability." In other words, AI developers don't fully understand how outcomes are reached. If they don't fully understand, how can we expect Congress to?

And yet, we hear a chorus of voices from experts and industry calling for Congress to act. At the Senate AI forum last week, there was "universal agreement" among participants that government needs to do something.

Today, I'm interested in hearing your views on some big questions:

1. Should the U.S. consider a licensing regime to prevent the most advanced AI models from amplifying these risks? If so, who should be doing the licensing and who should be subject to it?

2. How do we protect U.S. technology and our lead in AI over China? What more can do we to strengthen and enforce export controls?

3. From a national security perspective, should we be allowing the proliferation of open-source AI models? Does the Chinese government support open-source models?

4. What more can we do to responsibly bolster U.S. national security capabilities in the AI space?

Thank you, Madam Chair.