April 1, 2024

Re: Joint Support for SB 893 “California Artificial Intelligence Research Hub.”

Dear Senator Padilla:

The co-signed five organizations take seriously the responsible development of new technologies and the impacts they may have on society. California has long been at the center of where innovation and technology thrive. We appreciate your dedication to ensuring that California remains a key center for such activities.

We write to express support for SB 893. We believe that, if enacted, SB 893 will lay the foundation to do so by establishing the California Artificial Intelligence Research Hub (hereafter referred to as “the Hub”).

SB 893 outlines several key responsibilities that would fall under the Hub which would allow it to function as a central facilitator that fosters collaboration among government agencies, academic institutions, and private sector partners to drive forward artificial intelligence research and development. The measure also seeks to responsibly support access to and development of artificial intelligence computing capacity by finding ways to reduce costs and other economic barriers research institutions may face in accessing computing infrastructure. The co-signed organizations believe this is an effective way to promote innovation for public benefit while providing protections for consumer privacy and promoting equity. We believe that SB 893 strikes the right balance of acknowledging the potential immense benefits of artificial intelligence while also safeguarding privacy, advancing security, and addressing risks and potential harms to society.

Our organizations also acknowledge the recent amendments, which ensure lawful access to government data while simultaneously guaranteeing that such access will not compromise the protection of business-sensitive trade secrets. Access to this data is crucial for innovation, and we understand that this addition will protect privacy and safeguard access by developing a streamlined process for researchers to access data collected by state agencies.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with your Office to craft legislation that fosters innovation for automated systems and related technology, prioritizing user safety, security, and
equity. We are pleased to endorse this bill and eagerly anticipate future collaboration with your Office on legislation that fosters responsible innovation for digital services.

Sincerely,

Chamber of Progress - Robert Singleton
Computer & Communications Industry Association - Khara Boender
Engine - Nathan Lindfors
R Street Institute - Adam Thierer
Security Industry Association - Cameron Demetre