

GEORGE WHITESIDES
27TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CYBER, INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES, AND INNOVATION
SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
STRATEGIC FORCES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE
AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE:
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
1504 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-1956

ANTELOPE VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE
1043 WEST AVENUE M4, SUITE A
PALMDALE, CA 93551
PHONE: (661) 839-0532

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE
27200 TOURNEY RD, SUITE 300
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355
PHONE: (661) 568-4855

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

I write to express serious concern regarding your reported ultimatum to Anthropic, demanding “unrestricted” military use of its AI technology under a near-term deadline, sidestepping the guardrails put in place to maintain oversight and protect Americans’ privacy. These risks – paired with threats to terminate contracts, designate the company a “supply chain risk,” and potentially invoke the Defense Production Act – undermine public and private trust and set a dangerous precedent for AI use in our national defense. If true, the Department risks chilling innovation and private-sector cooperation, while sidestepping Congress’s oversight responsibilities at a critical moment for national security technology.

We are reaching an inflection point with artificial intelligence technology. We can now see its potential to accelerate scientific discovery, increase productivity, and unlock new capabilities across nearly every aspect of American life, including protecting national security.

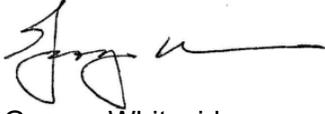
This tremendous potential also comes with significant challenges that we must take seriously. We are seeing AI systems being deployed faster and at greater scale than previous technologies. This raises important questions for Americans about safety, transparency, and accountability.

Given those questions, I am concerned that your threats to compel changes to safety policies on an accelerated timeline could push the Department toward broader deployment without sufficient guardrails about lawful and ethical use constraints. If the Department believes additional authorities are needed to meet mission requirements, those questions should be brought to Congress directly, not resolved through brinkmanship with a single vendor.

Accordingly, I request that the Department pause on making any decisions until fully evaluating how this ultimatum will undermine public trust and set a dangerous precedent for industry. I strongly support ensuring our warfighters have access to the best tools. We can do that while

also strengthening the safeguards, transparency, and Congressional oversight necessary for AI to serve our national security and democratic values. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Whitesides", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Whitesides
Member of Congress