United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2026

Leader Schumer and Senator Van Hollen,

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is threatening to upend every part of American life. And the U.S. Senate is acting too slowly. That's why the race for Senate Majority Leader is so important.

Thanks to the leadership of Leader Schumer, Democrats could hold as many as 56 seats. We just won in places like Kansas, Mississippi, and Texas, where Democrats haven't won Senate races in decades. With the presidential election two years away, we have a two-year audition to show Americans we can deliver on three priorities: affordability, accountability, and AI safety.

Following two years of unchecked chaos, Americans are desperately looking to Washington for leadership — especially on AI. Young people are wondering how they'll ever get their footing when AI is removing the first rung of the traditional career ladder. Families are worried about their energy bills climbing. Farmers are concerned about data centers draining their already limited water resources. Meanwhile, AI experts are warning that as model capabilities grow, the risks that a catastrophic incident will occur in the short term become even greater.

AI has the potential to help us solve our greatest challenges and unlock scientific breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture, and more. But we should also be deeply worried about what AI means for our future. The potential for even more massive concentrations of wealth and extreme inequality, the risks of war, blackouts, and acts of terror should concern us all. Every day the Senate fails to act moves us closer to these potential dangers.

The next Senate Majority Leader will play an outsized role in championing the tools we need to protect against consequences that are both profound and irreversible.

The next Majority Leader should have a day-one plan for responsible regulation. That should include policies that support a robust third-party evaluation ecosystem, mitigate national security challenges like cyber and biorisk, and establish clear rules of the road to hold AI companies accountable. We also need to examine how best to promote competition and open-source innovation and consider banning Recursive Self-Improvement to prevent AI systems from autonomously advancing beyond our ability to control them.

Meeting this moment requires more than just legislation. We should consider a Select Committee on AI that has the power and resources to help the Senate keep pace with this rapidly evolving technology. This Committee could complement the work of our other relevant committees while shining an even brighter, constant spotlight on AI, positioning Democrats as the party Americans trust to act in their best interests.

Ensuring this technology benefits all Americans, not just those building this technology will not be easy. It will take a leadership team with the right agenda and determination. That starts with an open discussion within our caucus.

The next Majority Leader must be prepared to deliver on affordability, accountability, and AI safety. I look forward to hearing more about your plans and working with our next leadership team to make these issues a top priority.

Sincerely,



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator