

May 26, 2026

From:
Chris Lehane
Chief Global
Affairs Officer
OpenAI

To:
The Honorable
Mike Johnson
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable
Hakeem Jeffries
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable
John Thune
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC
20510

The Honorable
Chuck Schumer
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC
20510

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries,

We are writing to highlight the importance of strategic compute as a matter of national security and advancing AI built on democratic values around the world.

Frontier AI systems are now strategic assets that can accelerate scientific discovery¹, strengthen cyber defense², enhance national decision-making, and shape the balance of global power. In the hands of adversaries, they can also help create potent new threats. The United States currently leads in frontier AI, but that lead cannot be taken for granted. It will matter only if the United States can deploy AI in service of our security and our values: giving American defenders the strongest capabilities available to protect citizens and critical infrastructure from malicious actors, while supporting allies and other nations as they build on AI systems grounded in democratic principles abroad.

In the Intelligence Age³, compute is the most critical resource for a nation to determine its own future. For the US government to realize the benefits of AI and protect against its risks in a national security context, it must be able to run frontier models in the right place, at the right time, at the right scale, and with the right security. That requires strategic compute: a dedicated, ready supply of the specialized chips, data centers, energy infrastructure, and technical operators needed to deploy the most advanced AI systems. OpenAI has built deep partnerships across the government to provide the United States with our most powerful models as quickly as possible, a reflection of our commitment to helping democratic nations sustain a durable advantage in an era of AI competition.

Frontier models are improving on a timescale of months, but fielding new compute takes much longer. Any delays can leave defenders still preparing for the last capability jump when the next one arrives. Recent reporting⁴ shows the urgency of this issue and the need to address the problem beyond a one time funding request. Strategic compute is the bridge between frontier capability and government adoption. The government needs to secure access today to the compute that it will need tomorrow. While we recognize that there are distinctions, it is instructive to consider the U.S. government's decision to create the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as a tool to protect against supply disruptions and geopolitical coercion. Strategic compute would similarly provide assured

¹ See An OpenAI model has disproved a central conjecture in discrete geometry (May 20, 2026), <https://openai.com/index/model-disproves-discrete-geometry-conjecture/>.

² See Daybreak, Frontier AI for cyber defenders, <https://openai.com/daybreak/>.

³ See The Intelligence Age (September 23, 2024), <https://ia.samaltman.com/>.

⁴ See White House Approves \$9 Billion for Spy Agencies to Catch Up on AI (May 22, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/22/us/politics/spy-agencies-ai-chips-shortage.html>.

access to a critical resource of the Intelligence Age by allowing the government to deploy frontier AI when national security and public purpose demand it.

The Department of Energy has already demonstrated the value of having strategic compute in place before a mission need arises. At Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), the Venado supercomputer enabled researchers to run OpenAI's then-frontier o3 reasoning model to accelerate national security research.⁵ Because of this capacity, LANL could securely access frontier AI capability when it became available. But that example remains the exception: the federal government has underinvested in comparable compute capacity. National security missions require compute that is dedicated, secure, refreshable, and available under government control.

Increased cybersecurity capabilities highlight the urgency for this work. From one model generation to the next, we saw a sharp jump in the ability of frontier systems to threaten critical infrastructure systems and to help defend them. Effective US adaptation to this change in offensive cyber capability depends on having both access to the strongest defensive models and the secure compute needed to run them. On the former, OpenAI Daybreak⁶ is our approach to fundamentally changing the dynamics of cybersecurity through new ways of building and defending software. As part of that approach, our Trusted Access for Cyber (TAC) program provides the most advanced cyber models to entities with verified cyber defense responsibilities. By giving defenders the strongest useful models, we seek to equip their capabilities before adversaries and criminals can exploit the same advances.

We encourage Congress and the Administration to work together to determine the best way to address this strategic compute shortage and to ensure the United States can deploy frontier AI to strengthen national defense and advance its interests. We stand ready to help address these challenges.

Sincerely,



Chris Lehane
Chief Global Affairs Officer
OpenAI

⁵ See Los Alamos National Laboratory launches frontier AI models on the Venado supercomputer (August 28, 2025), <https://www.lanl.gov/media/news/0828-venado-ai-models>.

⁶ See Daybreak, Frontier AI for cyber defenders, <https://openai.com/daybreak/>.