The Under Secretary for Science
Washington, DC 20585

November 12, 2026

Dr. Persis Drell
Chair
Office of Science Advisory Committee

Dear Dr. Drell:

The surge of foundation models and other forms of generative Super Intelligence (SI) presents a profound opportunity to accelerate scientific discovery and enhance the research and development mission of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science (SC). I am asking the Office of Science Advisory Committee (SCAC) **to establish a subcommittee to formulate strategic recommendations for SC to lead the development of open models to ensure the establishment of a world-leading SI for science and engineering portfolio.** Recognizing the significant investments being made by the United States (U.S.) private sector, and the general applicability of certain SI capabilities in reasoning and other areas**, I expect that SC's development of open models will build on open models developed by the U.S. private sector whenever possible**.

This subcommittee is essential for two reasons. First, while open SI models continue to play a critical role in SC's research and development activities, the growing capabilities of language, reasoning, and other types of scientific SI models raise questions about how open SI models can best be developed and deployed for science. Second, there is tension between the open exchange of research findings, data, and software to advance discovery and innovation and the needs to protect U.S. scientific leadership and economic and national security.

These and other emerging issues make it imperative that SC establish a strategy for the development of world-leading SI models for science and engineering. This strategy must be tailored to the unique needs and mission of the DOE, its National Laboratories, and the scientific community. This strategy must also consider the broader domestic and international collaborative environment that underpins the various scientific disciplines supported by SC. Additionally, this strategy must address DOE's diverse data resources, ranging from open research to sensitive and/or protected data, so the data can safely inform open models without compromising national security or intellectual property.

In forming its recommendations, the subcommittee should draw upon the expertise of its members and may gather additional information from subject matter experts in academia, industry, and national laboratories. The subcommittee should address the following questions in their deliberations:

- How do we maximize the benefits of developing open SI models, including applications involving sensitive data resources, while mitigating the potential risks?
- How should DOE engage with the private sector to develop open models for science?
- In this rapidly moving field, how do we continue to provide the community with timely and actionable guidance on open model development and use?

During the subcommittee's deliberations, other related questions may also arise. I also anticipate that the subcommittee's work will result in recommendations relevant for the Genesis Mission, therefore I ask that the subcommittee coordinate closely with the SCAC or any of its subcommittees that are charged with making recommendations that support prioritization of SC's and/or Genesis Mission activities.

The subcommittee should produce a report detailing its findings and providing actionable recommendations to the Office of Science. I would appreciate receiving a report by March 2027.

Thank you for your service and for undertaking this critical task for the Office of Science and the nation.

Sincerely,

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Darío Gil
Under Secretary for Science