



The “AI Innovation and Development for Efficiency (AIDE) Act”

U.S. Senator Peter Welch

Background:

Concerns about artificial intelligence (AI) risk must be balanced by considerations of potential upsides and opportunities. It is important to imagine a world with widespread AI deployment and invest in research that considers how AI can be leveraged to promote a safer digital landscape. Supporting research into targeted, high-value issue areas to align with and further AI innovation initiatives at leading-edge Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) institutions nationwide is crucial to achieving a more efficient technological future.

Legislation:

The *AI Innovation and Development for Efficiency (AIDE) Act* directs NSF to support research into AI-enabled efficient technologies and gives special consideration to research conducted at EPSCoR institutions. Research proposals should focus on improving efficiency across several issue areas, including:

- Agriculture;
- Emissions Reduction;
- Mobility or Transportation;
- Resource Conservation;
- Smart Grids; and
- Waste Reduction.

Proposals that focus on building smart technologies to support critical infrastructure, minimizing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from critical infrastructure sectors, and upgrading existing constructions to be more efficient should be prioritized. Research may also include proposals that assess the feasibility of safe and reliable integration of AI-enabled efficient technologies into critical infrastructure and research into the effectiveness of expanding public understanding, development, or adoption of AI-enabled efficient technologies. The legislation also requires research to include an impact assessment that evaluates the cost of deploying the AI-enabled technology described in the research, as well as a report to Congress on research feasibility and results.

Endorsing Organizations:

The *AIDE Act* is endorsed by Public Citizen, AccessNow, and Accountable Tech.