

RESOLUTION 23-13

RESOLUTION ON THE HAZARDS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- WHEREAS, artificial intelligence (“AI”) technologies and learning capabilities have been increasing exponentially, with one AI research company finding that AI/machine learning training capabilities had increased by a factor of 300,000 between 2012 and 2019—a doubling of compute every 3.43 months;¹ and
- WHEREAS, AI technologies have the potential to replace millions of jobs, impacting the labor market and causing social disruption;² and
- WHEREAS, AI technologies, including large language models, present serious threats for misuse, including the spread of misinformation;³ and
- WHEREAS, in a competitive market, private technology companies will endeavor to create the most advanced versions of AI; and
- WHEREAS, the aim of many companies is to create Artificial General Intelligence (“AGI”), an AI system capable of deduction, reasoning, self-awareness, and human-like cognitive abilities that would far exceed human general intelligence by many orders of magnitude; and
- WHEREAS, researchers from Cornell University contend that ChatGPT-4, a language processing tool driven by AI technology, is an early form of AGI that can perform novel and difficult tasks close to human-level performance;⁴ and
- WHEREAS, the pace of AI development is outpacing the ability to guarantee AI alignment that is meant to ensure AI systems achieve desired outcomes in alignment with human values and well-being;⁵ and
- WHEREAS, experts in alignment research have warned that creating super-intelligent AI before solving the alignment problem could lead to catastrophic outcomes;⁶ and
- WHEREAS, on March 22, 2023, the Future of Life Institute published an open letter calling for all AI labs to observe a six-month moratorium on certain AI development, which has subsequently been signed by over 1,000 notable technology industry leaders and many more thousands of individuals;⁷ and
- WHEREAS, in response to the Future of Life Institute’s letter, other experts such as Eliezer Yudkowsky (co-founder of the Machine Intelligence Research Institute) have stated that a moratorium on AGI development is urgently needed to prevent humanity’s extinction;⁸ and

1 Dario Amodei and Danny Hernandez, “AI and Compute”, OpenAI, May 16, 2018, openai.com/research/ai-and-compute.

2 Jack Kelly, “Goldman Sachs Predicts 300 Million Jobs Will Be Lost or Degraded by Artificial Intelligence”, Forbes, April 3, 2023, www.forbes.com/sites/jackkelly/2023/03/31/goldman-sachs-predicts-300-million-jobs-will-be-lost-or-degraded-by-artificial-intelligence/?sh=1d177b63782b; Jan Hatzius et al., “The Potentially Large Effects of Artificial Intelligence on Economic Growth”, Goldman Sachs, 26 March 2023, www.gspublishing.com/content/research/en/reports/2023/03/27/d64e052b-0f6e-45d7-967b-d7be35fabd16.html.

3 Todd C. Helmus, “Artificial Intelligence, Deepfakes, and Disinformation,” RAND Corporation, July 2022, <https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA1043-1.html>.

4 Sébastien Bubeck et al., “Sparks of Artificial General Intelligence: Early Experiments with GPT-4”, arXiv.org, April 13, 2023, arxiv.org/abs/2303.12712; Nanyi Fei et al., “Towards Artificial General Intelligence via a Multimodal Foundation Model” Nature News, June 2, 2022, www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-30761-2.

5 Ben Lutkevich, “AI alignment”, TechTarget, May 2023, www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/AI-alignment?Offer=abt_pubpro_AI-Insider.

6 Sara Brown, “Why Neural Net Pioneer Geoffrey Hinton Is Sounding the Alarm on AI” MIT Sloan, May 23, 2023, mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/why-neural-net-pioneer-geoffrey-hinton-sounding-alarm-ai.

7 “Pause Giant AI Experiments: An Open Letter” Future of Life Institute, March 22, 2023, futureoflife.org/open-letter/pause-giant-ai-experiments/.

8 Eliezer Yudkowsky, “Pausing AI Developments Isn’t Enough. We Need to Shut It All Down” TIME, March 29, 2023, <https://time.com/6266923/ai-eliezer-yudkowsky-open-letter-not-enough/>; Otto Barten and Joep Meindersma, “An AI Pause Is Humanity’s Best Bet for Preventing Extinction.” TIME, July 20, 2023, <https://time.com/6295879/ai-pause-is-humanitys-best-bet-for-preventing-extinction/>.

WHEREAS, Geoffrey Hinton, a former VP and engineering fellow at Google often referred to as the “Godfather of AI”, has warned that humanity will not be able to limit AI’s potential and believes the technology is an imminent existential threat;⁹ and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Elected officials at all levels of government are urged to fully understand AI technology and its potential hazards.

SECTION 2. Federal representatives are urged to determine the extent of existential threats posed by Artificial General Intelligence and to consider whether a super-intelligent AGI could be controlled by a much less intelligent beings, such as humans.

SECTION 3. Federal representatives are urged to impose a moratorium restricting AGI development until AGI alignment with human values and well-being is guaranteed.

SECTION 4. Federal representatives are urged to work on international agreements that would ensure the provisions of any such regulations are shared and adhered to globally.

SECTION 5. The City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, to both Houses of the Indiana General Assembly, to the Governor of Indiana, to the Indiana Congressional delegation, and to the President of the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

SUE SGAMBELLURI, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution is sponsored by Councilmember Rollo. It calls for officials at all levels of government to consider and acquaint themselves with the existential risks posed by artificial intelligence and calls for the imposition of a moratorium on artificial general intelligence development until there is a guarantee that the technology aligns with human values and well-being.

⁹ Cade Metz, “The Godfather of A.I.’ Leaves Google and Warns of Danger Ahead.” The New York Times, May 1, 2023, www.nytimes.com/2023/05/01/technology/ai-google-chatbot-engineer-quits-hinton.html.