



June 22, 2026

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 813 (McNerney) California AI Standards and Safety Commission – SUPPORT

Dear Senator McNerney,

Omidyar Network supports SB 813 (McNerney), as well as its companion bill AB 1405 (Bauer-Kahan) as recently amended. Together, these complementary measures establish a thoughtful and durable framework for advancing AI safety and accountability in California.

Omidyar Network's philanthropic and investment efforts have continued for more than two decades and stem from our founder's work at two great California companies, PayPal and eBay. We envision a world where our shared humanity steers our digital future. So far, we have committed nearly \$2 billion to initiatives that share our vision.

Artificial intelligence presents extraordinary opportunities, but the pace of technological development has far outstripped the pace of public oversight. As AI systems become increasingly powerful and integrated into daily life, policymakers must ensure that appropriate governance structures exist to protect consumers, promote innovation, and build public trust. SB 813 and AB 1405 represent the next logical step in California's leadership on AI governance by establishing the institutional infrastructure necessary to ensure that Californians can benefit from the promise of AI, while minimizing preventable harms associated with its misuse. The legislation creates a two-tiered, voluntary framework to evaluate AI systems and assess whether models meet advanced safety standards and reflect evolving best practices. These bills establish a benchmarking system in which the State of California sets desired public-interest outcomes—including safety, privacy, security, and accuracy—while independent, qualified, and accredited experts verify whether AI systems achieve those outcomes. This flexible, market-based and future-oriented approach reflects California's long-standing tradition of innovation while reinforcing our state's role as a global leader in consumer protection and responsible technology governance.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 813 and thank you for bringing forward this important measure.

Sincerely,
Anamitra Deb
Senior Vice President, Programs and Policy
Omidyar Network
535 Mission Street, Suite 850
San Francisco, CA 94105