

# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



1188 FRANKLIN STREET, 4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA 94109  
(415) 775-0533  
(415) 775-1302 FAX  
[www.ILWU.org](http://www.ILWU.org)

November 19, 2025

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith:

On behalf of the more than 40,000 workers represented by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), I write to express our strong objection to any effort to include an “AI moratorium” in the final *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026 during conference negotiations to resolve the differences between the House-passed version (H.R.3838) and the Senate-passed version (S.2296).

Over the summer, Congress rightly rejected an AI moratorium proposal in H.R.1, *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, via the Senate reconciliation process after widespread, bipartisan concerns about its sweeping impact on workers, state authority, and the responsible state governance of emerging technologies. That provision looked to place a “temporary pause” on any laws or regulations related to AI/Automation for ten years. The version now reportedly under consideration in the NDAA conference negotiations is no less dangerous – and no less of a federal overreach.

A decade-long ban – or even a short-term one – on state regulation of AI and automation would tie the hands of governments at the very moment when AI is rapidly transforming jobs not just at ports, but in warehouses, hospitals, hotels, creative industries, transportation, and public-sector workplaces across the country. Stripping states of the ability to enact basic guardrails would leave millions of workers exposed to unregulated deployment of technologies that directly affect safety, job security, and civil rights.

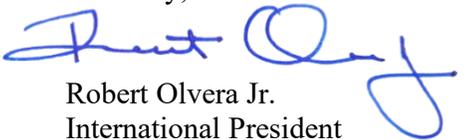
There is no national security justification for wedging this policy into the NDAA, particularly in the final days of conference. Rushing a sweeping federal preemption provision into a must-pass bill at the eleventh hour is simply not sound policymaking. Attempting to move a provision of this magnitude under severe time pressure – and outside any transparent debate – only underscores how misguided and unjustifiable it is.

Beyond that, it would trample state authority, sideline the workers who are living with the consequences of AI and automation deployment every day, and unravel the broad bipartisan understanding that this moratorium has no place in must-pass legislation.

Given the accelerated timeline, I urge you to swiftly and decisively reject any attempt to insert an AI moratorium into the final conference agreement. Congress should not revive a proposal that has already been rejected 99-1 across party lines – especially one that compromises worker protections in every state.

The ILWU stands ready to work with you on thoughtful, balanced approaches to emerging technologies. But a blanket preemption that silences state and local action cannot be part of that conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Olvera Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Olvera Jr.  
International President