September 8, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Michael Kratsios
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
1650 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Director Kratsios:

On behalf of the Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP), we write to congratulate you on a highly successful G20 Innovation Ministerial and to commend your leadership in securing a strong international statement in support of innovation, technological leadership, and economic growth.

We also want to thank each of you personally for your leadership in putting innovation and American technological competitiveness at the center of the international economic agenda. Your commitment to ensuring that the United States remains the best place in the world to invent, invest, build, and commercialize new technologies is both important and timely. We greatly appreciate your willingness to champion these principles at the G20 and to build international support around them.

The G20 Innovation Ministerial Statement and the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies articulate an important and timely vision: governments should actively foster innovation, investment, commercialization, and adoption of new technologies. We particularly welcome the recognition that policymakers should consider not only potential risks associated with emerging technologies, but also the very real costs of delaying or foregoing innovation.

We also applaud the G20's recognition of the central role that intellectual property plays in this innovation ecosystem. Strong and predictable IP protections encourage the investment, research, risk-taking, and commercialization necessary to transform ideas into technologies that improve lives and strengthen economies. The Statement appropriately recognizes the essential role of copyright in supporting creators and rightsholders, as well as the importance of robust intellectual property and trade secret protections in fostering innovation and research and development.

These principles are especially important as the United States and its allies compete for leadership in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, communications, and other critical technologies. The countries that create the strongest environments for inventors, entrepreneurs, creators, and investors will be best positioned to lead the next generation of technological development.

That competition is becoming more consequential by the day. China recently announced a new five-year plan aimed at strengthening thousands of innovative small and medium-sized technology companies—including its so-called "Little Giants"—in strategic and emerging industries. At a time when China is making a concerted national effort to cultivate and support its next generation of technology companies, it is more important than ever that the United States strengthen its own startup innovation and IP ecosystem.

America's ability to compete depends on ensuring that startups, small businesses, individual inventors, universities, and emerging technology companies can attract investment, protect their inventions, license their technologies, and successfully challenge established competitors. A strong and reliable intellectual property system is essential to giving these innovators the opportunity to grow into America's next generation of technology leaders.

We commend the Administration for advancing an innovation policy that recognizes both the importance of enabling new technologies and the importance of protecting the intellectual property rights that make sustained investment in innovation possible. These objectives are not in tension. They are mutually reinforcing elements of a successful innovation economy.

The G20's strong consensus around these principles sends an important signal internationally and provides a valuable foundation for continued U.S. leadership on innovation policy.

C4IP looks forward to working with you to advance policies that strengthen American innovation, intellectual property, technological leadership, and competitiveness—particularly legislative reforms that can secure an even stronger innovation legacy for the Administration.

Sincerely,

Coke Morgan Stewart
President and CEO
Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP)