



December 5, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Rogers, Ranking Member Pallone, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce,

Engine is a non-profit technology policy, research, and advocacy organization that bridges the gap between policymakers and startups. Engine works with government and a community of thousands of high-technology, growth-oriented startups across the nation to support the development of technology entrepreneurship. We're pleased to see H.R. 5398, the Advancing Tech Startups Act, receive a markup today.

For the past year and a half, Engine has been in the midst of a project called [Innovation for All](#), to identify barriers faced by underrepresented founders, elevate their voices, and highlight policy solutions to help startups launched by underrepresented founders to succeed. As we've spoken with founders throughout the project, there has been an understanding that various government agencies support the startup ecosystem, and support organizations are scattered across the country, but knowing how and where to find resources is a challenge.

U.S. startups drive innovation, create jobs, and produce novel technologies that provide solutions for global problems. The U.S. startup ecosystem is amongst the strongest in the world, but oftentimes founders, particularly from underrepresented groups, face significant barriers, including accessing capital and talent, when growing their companies. While numerous government resources exist to support U.S. founders, and the startup ecosystem is filled with incubators, accelerators and other support organizations, far too often, startups encounter unnecessary hurdles, including accessing existing resources, as they launch and grow.

We need more and better data about our startup ecosystem to understand how best to support its founders. Surveying and collecting data on technology startup companies and on which [federal agencies](#) "have jurisdiction over the creation, development, and growth of tech startups," as well as identifying interagency efforts that affect startups, is a great first step in not only figuring out what supports, partnerships, rules, and regulations exist, but also where founders are in need of help. Underrepresented founders in particular, including founders of color, women founders, and rural founders could stand to benefit from access to additional government resources and better access to ecosystem support organizations, as many face added barriers in launching and growing their companies. Members of Congress have already [recognized](#) the need for better data regarding U.S. startups, having called on the Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation to expand the Annual Business Survey to better identify data regarding U.S. startups.

To truly uplift and grow the startup ecosystem, we need a full understanding of the impact of startups on the U.S. economy and what the government is and is not doing to support the startup ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Engine Advocacy