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# Southern DAILY

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## Inspired by Greta Thunberg, worldwide protest demands climate action



(Reuters) - Millions of young people flooded the streets of cities around the world on Friday to demand political leaders take urgent steps to stop climate change, uniting in a worldwide protest inspired by 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.

Alarmed by images of the Greenland ice sheets melting and the Amazon rain forests burning, students and workers abandoned schools, shops and offices in nearly every corner of the globe, aiming to stop what they see as a looming environmental catastrophe.

The protests started in the Pacific islands, where rising sea levels threaten a way of life, and followed the sun across Australia, Japan, Southeast Asia and on to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas. The coordinated student "strike" culminated in New York's Wall Street, where some investors have embraced the fossil fuel industry.

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Massive crowds overwhelmed the streets of lower Manhattan, chanting "Save our planet!" while anticipating an address by Thunberg, an international figure who sailed across the Atlantic in an emissions-free yacht ahead of next week's climate summit at the United Nations.  
"Right now we are the ones who are making a difference. If no one else will take action, then we will," Thunberg told tens of thousands of people gathered at a park with a view of the Statue of Liberty.  
Once she took the stage, the crowd chanted her name, then went silent to hang on her every word. As she paused between sentences, people erupted into applause.  
"If you belong to that small group of people who feel threatened by us, then we have some very bad news for you. Because this is only the beginning. Change is coming whether they like it or not," she concluded.  
Demonstrators in Paris raised a painting of Thunberg as the Virgin Mary, a halo around her head reading, "Our house is on fire."

"She's like the icon of our genera-

tion," New York protester Fiamma Cochrane, 17, said, highlighting the leadership role of young people in the international movement to reduce consumption of fossil fuels.

Four million people participated worldwide including 300,000 in New York, organizers with the anti-fossil fuels group 350.org said. Reuters could not verify the crowd sizes.

Sixteen year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg takes part in a demonstration as part of the Global Climate Strike in lower Manhattan in New York, U.S., September 20, 2019. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton  
Concern has escalated since U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the international Paris Accord on climate change and took a series of steps to dismantle environmental protections, including moving on Thursday to block stricter vehicle emissions standards in California.  
Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro are among the world's only national leaders who publicly question the science of climate change, and they are not taking part in next week's U.N. climate summit.

Thousands gathered across Brazil to take aim at Bolsonaro, who they say is allowing the destruction of the Amazon rainforest to clear space for soy beans and cattle ranching. In August, fires there surged to their greatest level since 2010.

"The policy of the Bolsonaro government is the policy of environmental destruction and deepening the climate crisis ... this is why we're on strike," said Marcela Pimentel Miranda, an organizer for Youth for Climate's affiliate in Brasilia.

One protester in Sao Paulo held up a picture of Bolsonaro and Trump beneath the hand-written "Abolish fossil fuels!"

Demonstrators in Thailand stormed the environment ministry and feigned death, while activists in Berlin and Munich stood on melting blocks of ice with nooses around their necks to symbolize the earth's fate when the polar ice caps melt.

Protesters in Warsaw staged a performance of people drowning in a sea of plastic waste.

"The planet is getting hotter than my imaginary boyfriend," read a poster held by a teenager in Thailand.

"Make love, not CO2" signs were spotted in Berlin and Vienna.

While Europeans filled the streets, students in the Solomon Islands gathered at the rising ocean water's edge wearing traditional grass skirts. The issue is vital to low-lying Pacific islands, which have repeatedly asked wealthier nations to do more to prevent rising sea levels.

Global warming caused by heat-trapping greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels has already led to droughts and heat waves, melting glaciers, rising sea levels and floods, according to scientists.

"There is no Planet B," read a sign hoisted by a young woman in London

In Kenya, around 500 activists marched to demand that the government cancel plans for a coal plant and investigate corruption in hydropower dams.

"In Samburu there is a lot of heat, the grass has dried up, there is little water," said Francis Lentel, a young herdsman in traditional beads, holding a picture of the Earth weeping.

The protest movement is putting increasing pressure on governments and companies to respond.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel unveiled a new climate protection package thrashed out by parties in her coalition during all-night talks.

Private industry has also responded. Amazon.com Inc Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos on Thursday pledged to make the largest U.S. e-commerce company net carbon neutral by 2040.

Hundreds of workers from Google, Amazon and other technology companies on Friday criticized their industry for being slow to tackle climate change and joined marches in San Francisco and Seattle calling for action.

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Hopes for trade breakthrough fade as China cancels U.S.

WASHINGTON/CHICAGO (Reuters) - A U.S.-China trade deal appeared elusive on Friday after Chinese officials unexpectedly canceled a visit to farms in Montana and Nebraska as deputy trade negotiators wrapped up two days of negotiations in Washington.

Chinese officials were expected to visit U.S. farmers next week as a goodwill gesture, but canceled to return to China sooner than originally scheduled, agriculture organizations from Montana and Nebraska said.

The United States had removed tariffs overnight from over 400 Chinese products in response to requests from U.S. companies.

The Chinese Embassy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

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U.S., China held 'productive' talks, still plan October meeting: USTR

China agriculture delegation scraps U.S. farm visit to Montana

The U.S. Trade Representative's office issued a brief statement characterizing the two days as "productive" and that a principal-level trade meeting in Washington would take place in October as previously planned.

China's Commerce Ministry, in a brief statement, described the talks as "constructive", and said they had also had a good discussion on "detailed arrangements" for the high-level talks in October.

"Both sides agreed to continue to maintain communication on the relevant issues," it added, without elaborating.

Trade experts, executives and government officials in both countries say that even if the September and October talks produced an interim deal, the U.S.-China trade war has hardened into a political and ideological battle that runs far deeper than tariffs and could take years to resolve.

The Chinese delegation did not present any new proposals on core structural issues including intellectual property protections, forced technology transfers, industrial subsidies and other trade barriers, said a person briefed on the talks.

"The conclusion from the U.S. side was that we're not close to an agreement," the person said.

This source and another person familiar with the talks said that the Chinese delegation's leader, Vice Finance Minister Liao Min, laid out China's demands that any deal must remove all U.S. tariffs and be balanced so that it is not all concessions from Beijing and none from Washington.

The sources said that a lack of results from deputy meetings is not uncommon as they often are not authorized to make deals or present new offers.

The early October meeting will include the top trade negotiators: Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. It is expected to determine whether the world's two largest economies are starting to chart a path out of their 14-month trade war or headed for new and higher tariffs on each others' good. Cancellation of the Chinese agriculture visits, which were seen as potentially leading to-



FILE PHOTO: Containers are seen at the Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai, China August 6, 2019. REUTERS/Aly Song

creased purchases of U.S. soybeans and pork, caused Wall Street's main stock indexes to fall as early optimism about the talks faded.

Grain and soybean futures on the Chicago Board of Trade and livestock futures on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange also slumped. China is the world's largest pork market and the largest importer of soybeans.

'COMPLETE DEAL' Before the talks started, some reports had suggested that an interim deal

was being considered, involving Chinese purchases of U.S. farm goods, some improvements in Chinese market access and an easing of U.S. sanctions on Huawei Technologies Co Ltd

But U.S. President Donald Trump made clear on Friday that purchases would not be enough for him to end his punitive tariffs.

FILE PHOTO: Chinese and U.S. flags flutter near The Bund, before U.S. trade delegation meet their Chinese counterparts for talks in Shanghai, China July 30, 2019. REUTERS/Aly Song/File Photo/File Photo

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# Editor's Choice



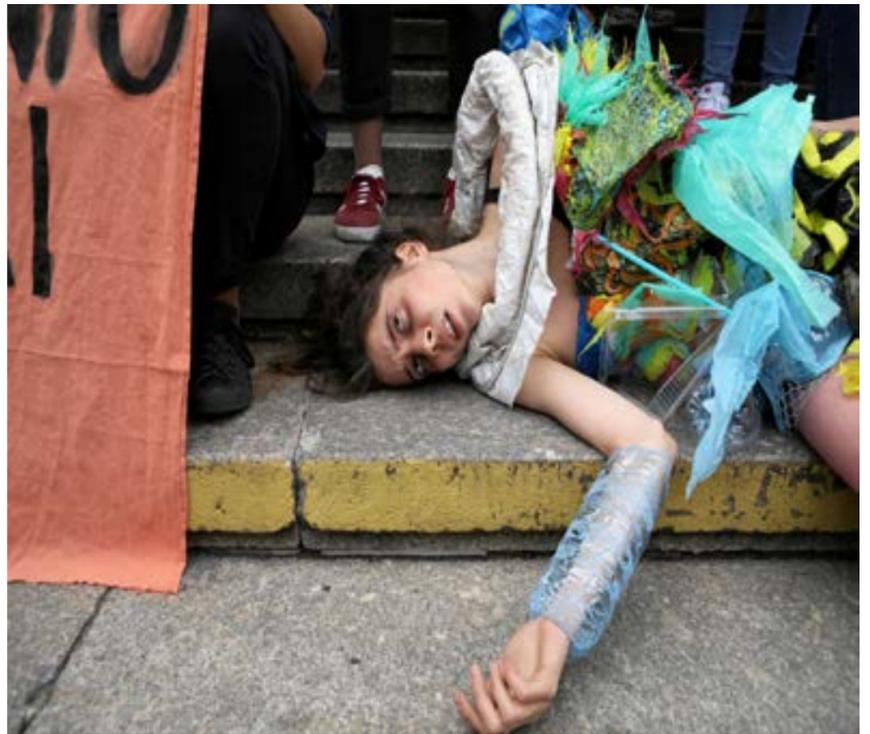
Environmental activist play dead as they participate in a Global Climate Strike near the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment office in Bangkok



Sixteen year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg carries a sign onto the stage at the Global Climate Strike in lower Manhattan in New York, U.S., September 20, 2019. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Girls dressed in "Hanfu", or Han clothing, prepare for an event to mark the traditional Qixi festival, the Chinese equivalent of Valentine's Day, at a park in Beijing, China, August 7, 2019. Picture taken August 7, 2019. REUTERS/Jason Lee



An activist takes part in a performance during an environmental demonstration, part of the Global Climate Strike, in Warsaw, Poland September 20, 2019. Maciek Jazwiecki/Agencja Gazeta via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS - THE DAY



Women react during a demonstration to protest against violence towards women at Sol Square in Madrid, Spain, September 20, 2019. REUTERS/Juan Medina TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Canada's PM Trudeau speaks during an election campaign stop in Toronto



Senior leaders assigned to the U.S. Army's 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), participate in a training during a tactical leader's exercise at Eglin Air Force Base



A demonstrator holds a banner, during an anti-Brexit protest, outside the Houses of Parliament in London

# Newspaper Closings Raise Fears About Industry

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Sometime soon, millions of people may find themselves unwittingly involved in a test that could profoundly change their daily routines, local economies and civic lives. They'll have to figure out how to keep up with City Hall, their neighborhoods and their kids' schools — as well as store openings, new products and sales — without a 170-year-old staple of daily life: a local newspaper.

At least one city — possibly San Francisco, Miami, Minneapolis or Cleveland — likely will soon lose its last daily newspaper, analysts say. And it "could be a lot more widespread than people have been predicting," says Mike Simonton, who tracks media debt for Fitch Ratings.

It's hard to ignore that possibility as the pace of newspaper closings accelerates. Starting Wednesday, Hearst's 146-year-old Seattle Post-Intelligencer survives as a scaled-down online publication offering mostly commentary. That leaves The Seattle Times as the city's only major paper-and-ink daily.

Gannett gci, parent of USA TODAY, may shutter the 140-year-old Tucson Citizen, which competes with the Arizona Daily Star, if a buyer can't be found.

Last month, E.W. Scripps ssp closed the Rocky Mountain News, leaving The Denver Post as the city's sole major daily.

Are these symptoms of a miserable economy that's pulverizing a handful of high-profile papers, including some owned by companies with unusually crushing debt loads? Or have we reached a tipping point where advertisers and readers are flocking so quickly to digital media that most of the nation's 1,400 dailies may end up in the morgue?

Industry watchers aren't sure, although some say it's too early to start hanging crepe. "Publishers and journalists have become their own worst enemy," says Robert Picard, a media economics scholar who edits the Journal of Media Business Studies. "They are running around arguing that the sky is falling. And they're making the situation appear far worse than it is."

About 80% of newspaper revenue comes from advertising, and the Newspaper Association of America expects those sales to drop 9.7% in 2009 to \$34.2 billion, after falling 16.5% in 2008.

"Advertising has fallen off a cliff," says Randy Bennett, senior vice president of business development at the NAA. "The question is how much of that will come back when things pick up again. And the expecta-

tion is, certainly not all of it."

## Business models

Almost everyone agrees that newspapers must reinvent their business models. Experiments include The New York Times' plan to enlist journalism students to help cover some neighborhoods in Brooklyn and New Jersey. The East Valley Tribune in Mesa, Ariz., recently began to offer free home delivery four days a week to neighborhoods with families that appeal to advertisers. Some experts say that it's time to consider extraordinary measures, including government bailouts, to ensure that no community has its newsrooms go dark.

"We need to view journalism in the same way that we view libraries and public schools, as absolutely essential to any prospering community," says Theodore Glasser, professor of communications at Stanford University. "A lot of good stuff is published by newspapers so that public officials see it and act accordingly. That's the power of the press. And that's the first thing being cut."

Others say not to worry: The Internet and the market will empower professional journalists, bloggers and interest groups to independently provide all the local news anyone could want.

"There's going to be an ecosystem, a network of different players involved in news for different reasons," says Jeff Jarvis, who runs the City University of New York's interactive journalism program.

Traditional newspapers won't be part of the mix, though: They "aren't willing to cannibalize and disrupt themselves,"

Jarvis says. "It's too late. ... It's going to be a post-Armageddon rebuilding."

Over the past few months:

- The Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News announced plans to cut home delivery to three days a week beginning March 30 and urged readers to go online to follow the news on other days.

- Virtually every major newspaper announced staff cuts. McClatchy mni—which owns The Miami Herald, The Kansas City Star and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram—said in February that it would slash 15% of its workforce, on top of a 10% cut late last year. "By the end of 2009, a quarter of all the newsroom jobs that existed in 2001 will be gone," the Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism said this week in its annual "The State of the News Media" report.

- Those keeping their jobs have seen salaries cut. Gannett required virtually all employees to take a one-week unpaid furlough in the first quarter.

- Publicly traded publishers collectively lost about 39% of their market value since Jan. 1, underperforming the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index, which is down 16.5%. Looked at another way, the \$5.4 billion that Rupert Murdoch paid in 2007 for Wall Street Journal parent Dow Jones nwsa could buy Gannett, McClatchy, New York Times Co. nyt, Washington Post Co. wpo, A.H. Belo abc and E.W. Scripps with about \$750 million to spare, based on current values.

- Publishers in Philadelphia and Minneapolis as well as the Journal Register, a chain in the northeast and

Michigan, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. That followed a similar filing in December by Tribune Co., publisher of Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times and The Sun in Baltimore.

## Double-digit profit margins

Tough times? You bet. But one has to imagine an epic social and economic transformation to conclude that the newspaper industry is at death's door.

Nearly half of all adults read a newspaper every day and spent \$10.5 billion last year to do so. The average newspaper generates about a 10% profit margin.

"It's not the 20% to 30% they were enjoying several years ago," Bennett says. "But it's still an enviable profit margin for many businesses."

That's overlooked with all of the attention on large local papers that are especially vulnerable to the soft economy.

Advertisers in big cities have plenty of options to reach consumers, and newspapers are one of the most expensive. They typically charge about \$25 for every 1,000 people who might see an ad covering one-third of a page. That's a lot more than the cost to reach a similar audience via radio, magazines, billboards and websites. Advertisers outside of big cities have far fewer alternatives. As a result, "Smaller-market newspapers are in better financial shape," Bennett says. Most large publishers also are straining to pay off heavy debt they took on before the economy fell into a tailspin.



Although large local newspapers have the biggest problems, everyone is struggling to keep ad sales and readers. That includes national dailies led by USA TODAY, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, although they benefit from economies of scale and strong brand identities.

Nearly 67% of homes have an Internet connection. That opens them to sites offering almost everything found in newspapers, including national and global news, business, opinion, entertainment, sports, comics and horoscopes.

That's why some experts say local newspapers should concentrate on local news and events and become less stuffy.

"This was a much more fun business years ago when people didn't hold themselves to such high standards," says former Merrill

Lynch analyst Lauren Rich Fine, now at Kent State University. "There are different ways to (report the news) and not be so hard on yourself if you get it wrong."

It's hard to predict how many people want local news enough to pay a price that, as ad sales shrink, could be much higher than now — or to pay any fee to read stories online, where most papers now offer them free. "If you look at public radio and the troubles their outlets have raising money for public affairs journalism, it might give you pause," says James Hamilton, who runs Duke University's DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy.

Before about 1840, when the Penny Press turned newspapers into an inexpensive mass medium, 15% of the population spent the equivalent in today's dollars of as much as \$4 a day for a newspaper, Picard says.



Digital media evangelists say the future will be much different. About 85% of a newspaper's costs go to things such as presses, paper, ink and trucks. Without those costs, even modest ad sales could support lots of people to provide local news and information without charge.

"There's a market demand for quality journalism and reporting," Jarvis says. What's the evidence? "Based on democracy. Based on the intelligence of the audience. Based on the fact that my son reads more news than ever. Based on the fact that we need it."

Some journalists agree, working with non-profit online publications including Voiceofsanidiego.org, the St. Louis Beacon and Minneapolis' MinnPost.com.

Several former Rocky Mountain News employees plan to start InDenverTimes.com in May if they can persuade 50,000 people to pay \$4.99 a month for a year.

Glasser doubts that such ventures can compensate for the loss of newspaper newsrooms. "I've seen nothing in the blogosphere that provides the sustained, systematic coverage that a good newsroom provides. Not even close," he says.

If he's right, then the consequences from current trends could be ugly.

"We'll know if things don't work out if there's an increase in corruption," Hamilton says. "When the watchdog goes away, what happens? That's the experiment we're starting to run." (Courtesy abcnews.go.com)

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Most Americans have filed their income taxes by midnight Monday, April 15, and employers will report their payroll taxes later this month. But companies that have replaced or expanded their flesh-and-blood staff with robots will get a free pass.

**What's new:** Amid fears of automation-fueled job loss, a once-fringe debate is exploding into public view: Why don't we tax the bots?

**The big picture:** For over a century and a half, the United States has taxed income, first to fund war and later to build up the country's coffers. But now, some experts say it's time to reevaluate who — or what — should be taxed.

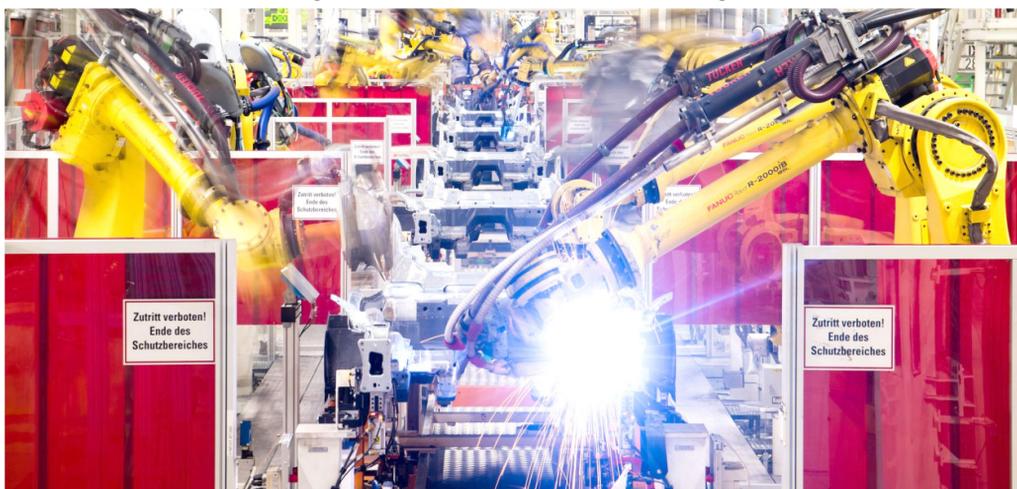
•**The idea is** to use money raised from companies carrying out automation to help retrain or support people who lose their jobs because of it.

•**Among the robot levy's** most ardent — and improbable — supporters is Bill Gates, who in a 2017 interview said robots should be taxed “at a similar level” to the humans it replaced, even if that slows the speed of automation.

•**Pumping the brakes** will give policymakers more time to counteract potential unemployment, proponents argue.

“It's a bit like polluting the environment,” says James Manyika, director of the McKinsey Global Institute. Companies will choose cheap, dirty fossil fuels over clean energy unless there are incentives not to — just like they'll likely choose to automate away jobs.

**Robots May Be Taxed In The Future To Fund Human Services**  
**Experts Consider Taxing Robots To Pay For The Jobs They Took**



(Photo/Getty Images)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

called for a tax credit for investing in robots, calling predictions of job loss from automation overblown.

**Related**  
**Why robots should be taxed if they take people's jobs**  
**Bill Gates says governments could use a robot tax to fund human services – it would also help remedy income inequality**

The idea of a tax on robots was raised last May in a draft report to the European parliament prepared by MEP Mady Delvaux from the committee on legal affairs. Emphasising how robots could boost inequality, the report proposed that there might be a “need to introduce corporate reporting requirements on the extent and proportion of the contribution of robotics and AI to the economic results of a company for the purpose of taxation and social security contributions”.



A tax on robots might provide revenues to finance retraining schemes for displaced workers. (Photo/Reuters)

The public reaction to Delvaux's proposal has been overwhelmingly negative, with the notable exception of Bill Gates, who endorsed it. But we should not dismiss the idea out of hand. In just the past year, we have seen the proliferation of devices such as Google Home and Amazon Echo Dot (Alexa), which replace some aspects of household help. Likewise, the Delphi and nuTonomy driverless taxi services in Singapore have started to replace taxi drivers. And Doordash, which uses Starship Technologies miniature self-driving vehicles, is replacing restaurant delivery people.

If these and other labor-displacing innovations succeed, surely calls to tax them will grow more frequent, owing to the human problems that arise when people lose their jobs — often jobs with which they closely identify, and for which they may have spent years preparing. Optimists point out that there have always been new jobs for people replaced by technology, but, as the robot revolution accelerates, doubts about how well this will work out continue to grow. A tax on robots, its advocates hope, might slow down the process, at least temporarily, and provide revenues to finance adjustment, like retraining programs for displaced workers.

**If the robots are coming for our jobs, make sure they pay their taxes**  
—John Naughton

Such programmes may be as essential as our work is to healthy human life as we know it. In his book *Rewarding Work*, Edmund S Phelps emphasized the fundamental importance of maintaining a “place in society — a

calling”. When many people are no longer able to find work to support a family, troubling consequences ensue, and, as Phelps stresses, “the functioning of the entire community may be impaired”. In other words, there are externalities to robotisation that justify some government intervention.

Critics of a robot tax have emphasized that the ambiguity of the term “robot” makes defining the tax base difficult. The critics also stress the new robotics' enormous, undeniable benefits to productivity growth.

But let's not rule out so quickly at least modest robot taxes during the transition to a different world of work. Such a tax should be part of a broader plan to manage the consequences of the robotics revolution.



Robots won't just take our jobs — they'll make the rich even richer

Discussion of a robot tax should consider what alternative we have to deal with rising inequality. It would be natural to consider a more progressive income tax and a “basic income”. But these measures do not have widespread popular support. If support is not widespread, the tax, even if imposed, will not last.

So, taxes must be reframed to remedy income inequality induced by robotisation. It may be more politically acceptable, and thus sustainable, to tax the robots rather than just the high-income people. And while this would not tax individual human success, as income taxes do, it might in fact imply somewhat higher taxes on higher incomes, if high incomes are earned in activities that involve replacing humans with robots.

A moderate tax on robots, even a temporary tax that merely slows the adoption of disruptive technology, seems a natural component of a policy to address rising inequality. Revenue could be targeted towards wage insurance, to help people replaced by new technology make the transition to a different career. This would accord with our natural sense of justice, and thus be likely to endure. (Courtesy the guardian.com)



**Detractors, however, say a tax could** stall innovation at a time when China is unwaveringly pushing to dominate AI and robotics.

•In a report last week, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a think tank, argued that the robot tax would slow GDP and wage growth.

•**ITIF president Rob Atkinson** instead

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**Recently Closed Loans**

SBA Loan-Motel	SBA Loan-Gas Stations
Loan Amount: \$3,300,000 Term: 12 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Construction/ Term Start Up	Loan Amount: \$4,055,000 (Total Five Loans) Term: 12 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Purchasing & Working Capital
Conventional-Gas Station	SBA Loan-Motel
Loan Amount: \$1,880,000 Term: 20 Years Straight payout Purpose: Purchasing	Loan Amount: \$2,500,000 Term: 12 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Construction/ Term Start Up
Conventional: Retail Condominiums	Conventional: Gas Stations
Loan Amount: \$4,350,000 Term: 8 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Tenant Improvement/ Term CRE Investor Program	Loan Amount: \$3,450,000 (Total 2 Loans) Term: 20 Years straight payout Purpose: Refinance & Extra Equity for Gas Stations purchasing
Conventional: Gas Stations	Conventional: Builder line of credit
Loan Amount: \$3,780,000 Term: 20 years straight payout Purpose: Refinancing and Extra Equity for Land Purchasing	Loan Amount: \$1,700,000 Term: 12 Month Interest Only Purpose: SFR Construction Builder Line

For your Commercial Loan inquiry and SBA Loan inquiry, please contact,

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