



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Teamsters Denounce GOP Bill To Roll Back NLRB Joint Employer Ruling

Republican Bill Reverses 2015 Browning-Ferris Decision

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[International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#)

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WASHINGTON, July 27, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Teamsters Union today denounced the introduction of legislation by House Republicans that would roll back the 2015 National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) "joint employer" ruling in the case of Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. The decision established stronger protections for millions of American workers by holding employers that rely on temporary or contracted workers accountable. The joint employer rule prevents companies from claiming they are not responsible for workers employed by agencies retained by the company. The 2015 NLRB ruling resulted from a 2013 case brought by Teamsters Local 350 in Daly City, Calif., against Browning-Ferris, a waste management company that is owned by Republic Services. The union maintained that Republic had control over wage and working conditions for its

workers employed through Leadpoint Services, a staffing agency, and counted as a joint employer with that agency. "Rolling back the joint employer ruling would reopen the door for unscrupulous companies to manipulate the system to avoid their responsibilities to temporary and contracted workers," said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President. "The joint employer ruling should not be reversed – all workers deserve fairness in the workplace." Founded in 1903, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents 1.4 million hardworking men and women throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. **Note from PA Conference:** if ruling is rolled back, Unions would have to organize employees at each individual company within a single franchise, as opposes to organizing all employees at once within the same franchise.

Foxconn invests in Wisconsin: Workers 'should be wary'

CNN See full article at: <http://money.cnn.com/2017/07/27/technology/business/foxconn-china-us-wisconsin-workers/index.html>

Foxconn told CNN that its interest in Pennsylvania remains strong, but the state government has not yet been able to commit to the level of support necessary to make the project "economically viable." [The Wisconsin factory, meanwhile, will create 3,000 jobs](#) with the potential to grow to 13,000, Foxconn added. The state's governor said it should be completed by 2020.

Hiring robots, not workers In 2011, following [a spate of worker suicides that](#) sent Foxconn's reputation plummeting and made it a prime example among Chinese workers of poor labor conditions, CEO Terry Gou made a promise. The [Taiwanese business magnate](#) said his company would employ 1 million robots over the next three years, moving humans away from the production lines where their labor -- on Apple ([AAPL](#), [Tech30](#)) iPhones and other high-end electronics -- had made him a billionaire. While one factory cut 60,000 jobs last year thanks to automation, according to the South China Morning Post,

The robot scabs are coming to take your jobs

CNN© See full article at: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/15/opinions/the-robot-scabs-are-coming-to-take-your-jobs-howard-opinion/index.html>

Every new report shows the machine replacement of human labor is accelerating, with job creation by new technology no longer keeping up with job loss. Last month it was a sophisticated study from the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) showing that industrial robots alone displace human workers at a stunning rate and have an even more depressive effect on wages. Last year a [World Bank study](#) found that 57% of jobs in [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) nations were vulnerable to replacement within the next 20 years. Many experts think this is a more serious problem than the export of jobs abroad.

How big is the problem? Consider just one example. In the United States, [3.5 million truck drivers could lose their jobs](#) over the next decade as self-driving trucks hit the highways.

It would be a mistake to think the problem affects mainly manufacturing or low-skill jobs such as truck driving, although that is the sector of the economy where the impact of robotics and artificial intelligence on jobs is most visible. Just as mistaken is the idea that retraining displaced workers with high-tech skills is the solution to the problem, because the high-tech jobs are disappearing. Especially with advances in artificial intelligence, the bots are doing more of the intellectual labor once done by highly trained professionals.

[Lawyers are losing out to bots](#) that write routine contracts, wills and deeds. Architects and engineers no longer do the drafting work now done by computer-aided design software. Business writers are being displaced by AI that abstracts and summarizes corporate reports. And medical diagnosis is now in the [hands of IBM's Watson](#).

You might think that humans still have to program the robots and code the AI. So you might add your voice to the chorus calling for every child to be taught how to code. But that won't guarantee your child a job, because more and more of the coding is now also done by the computers themselves.

Why is this happening? Partly it's economics. Robots are expensive, but they quickly pay for themselves. They work 24/7 without complaint, they don't need health insurance and they don't join unions. The real game changer, however, is the development of robots and AI that learn on the job. With machine learning, we don't have to program beforehand every movement and every decision that the bots have to make. Just as a human can learn medical diagnostics, plumbing or policing, so, too, can the robots learn, except that the robots learn 100 times faster, they're never late for a lesson and they don't need weekends off.