Making the American Economy Greatly Unprepared for the Information Age
and Again Letting Private Interests Derail Economic Progress and
American Leadership

America has a choice. We can be the leaders in technology and innovation or we can slowly be surpassed. Though we must not be surpassed. We are falling behind in education and innovation. We cling to the past like an abused partner, unwilling to move on to something better. American needs to invest in education that is relevant in our future and implement economic policy that most benefits our economy as a whole.

Our education system is out dated and increasingly so, considering it is not adapting at the rate of the demands world economy. In any set of statistics your read on jobs demanded in America it will spell out four letters STEM. However, the education that is not only necessary for the progress of all other STEM careers but all relevant careers in general is Informatics and computing. In the information age for a business to be competitive it must use computers to maximize their profits and growth. Not only are Computer science and informatics majors needed for hardware and software based companies but they are needed in every type of business to write code to comb through data and improve business. Soon and much sooner than most people
think, informatics and computing skills will be considered a similar credential to being literate. As automation takes over the labor force more and more programmers will be needed. Like driverless cars, automation will overtake manufacturing. Driverless cars don’t get drunk, or get distracted, or put their own interests over the efficient flow of traffic. That is why all labor and operating jobs will be replaced with automation. STEM, medical, administrative, and human interaction will be the only jobs demanded by the economy. Either, we can fight this and become no longer relevant in the world economy or we can redefine our education system to focus solely on STEM, medical, administrative, and human interaction.

America can boast one of the most attractive environments for skilled workers, but for how long? While I consider myself politically moderate, I have a problem with much of the policy introduced by the executive branch. This problem is inherent in their campaign slogan “Make America Great Again”. We do not want to make America anything “again” because that suggests regression. For example the promise to bring back manufacturing jobs to America would be great; however, it is a lie, because as soon as those jobs are back in America, the companies will look to automation to offset the high labor costs. These shortsighted policies, cling to the past, will bring an end to American leadership.

To save American leadership in the world economy, as manufacturing is no longer a reliable means of employment, we must export American leadership. If we redefine our education system as a previously suggested, Americans will have access to the jobs most demanded. While the demand for medical professionals are obvious and I have explained the demand for STEM professionals, the demand for
administrative professionals (American leadership) is just arising. Many developing countries are beginning to modernize and in doing so creating huge markets to do business in. Instead of fearing foreign workers and competitors, we should lead them. We should use the abilities of our modern computers to remotely manage companies in developing countries. Through investing in their growth, we will profit off the growth of developing countries, keeping America as a global economic leader. Instead of isolating ourselves from the world economy we can take charge in the growth of it, keeping American leadership alive.

We need to encourage market competitively in ways that will grow the economy, not ways that only will profit the few. To maximize economic efficiency, regulations should be more so dependent on the social benefits and social costs of the firm rather than the apparent market value. Even if you ignore the social costs of pollution from the fossil fuel industry, fossil fuels are limited and instead of investing our resources in energy sources with a timer lets pursue options that will last billions of years. It’s often argued that regulations protecting our environment are harmful to business; however, if a business is not capable of surviving in the market without excess social costs they should not be in the market. Many politicians who preach against regulation are fine with it when it’s barring competitors out of their donors markets. For example, laws not allowing homeowners to sell extra energy produced from solar. Instead of going on a regulation witch hunt, let’s simplify and actively adjust regulations to best benefit our economy in the long run.

Our education must be reinvented and able to adapt to the changing needs of our economy. With this new education system Americans will be in position to lead the
world economies to a better future. However, this will only be possible if politicians can unite under the wellbeing of the people. Through technology America needs to renew our spirit of innovation, approach to education and business regulation.