

pandodaily

Not everyone is outraged by San Francisco's most obnoxious billboard (Spoiler: Libertarians)

By Paul Carr
July 20, 2014

Given all the talk of them vs us — the tech industry vs everyone else who lives and works in the Bay Area — it's heartening to see most Pando readers united in *I-might-puke-ness* over [this](#): San Francisco's most obnoxious billboard...



As I [wrote](#) a couple of days ago, the ad was produced by the [Employment Policies Institute](#), a conservative lobbying group which regularly campaigns on behalf of the restaurant industry. A

[member of their advisory board](#) was also a leading witness in the defense of illegal wage fixing by Apple, Google and others.

And yet... apparently not everyone agrees that restaurant workers in San Francisco — a city where median monthly rents [just passed \\$3400](#) — deserve to see their wages increase to \$15 per hour by 2018, which is the law the billboard is protesting....

[Update: [Meet the asshole behind San Francisco's most assholeish billboard](#)]

 **Pando** @PandoDaily 20 Jul
Wow, this billboard is the worst: pndo.ly/1pkVNSf by @paulcarr
pic.twitter.com/1zf9OCz60J

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@PandoDaily @paulcarr congratulations on a terribly argued and biased attempt at journalism here. It's a valid point.

5:04 PM - 20 Jul 2014

← ↻ ★

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Wow, this billboard is the worst: pndo.ly/1pkVNSf by @paulcarr
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.@PandoDaily @paulcarr "man, free capitalism is the worst." Spiking minimum wage is a short sighted approach to helping the poor. #inflation

4:52 PM - 20 Jul 2014

1 RETWEET 1 FAVORITE

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Paul Carr @paulcarr

20 Jul

@dansiemek What's a fantasy is the idea that service workers will be replaced by iPads if minimum wage remains fair.



Daniel

@DanSiemek

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@paulcarr companies aren't benevolent. Raise input costs (labor) and they'll go elsewhere (globalization). The service worker still loses.

5:06 PM - 20 Jul 2014

1 FAVORITE



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Wow, this billboard is the worst: pndo.ly/1pkVNSf by @paulcarr
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Rob Ganjon

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@PandoDaily @paulcarr since there are no negative consequences, just raise the min wage to \$50/hr and eliminate poverty for good. Duh.

4:50 PM - 20 Jul 2014

3 FAVORITES



Scott Lincicome @scottlincicome

20 Jul

yeah, I hate economics/reality too RT @PandoDaily Wow this billboard is the worst pndo.ly/1pkVNSf by @paulcarr pic.twitter.com/9C5F3SNzN9



The argument that we should just let the free market do its thing without artificially fixing wages is a perfectly reasonable one to make, of course. Especially if you're a well-paid white dude who doesn't have to live in San Francisco, let alone work a minimum wage job (which seems to be the common theme amongst those loudly cheering the billboard for reflecting "reality.")

There are just a couple of snags, though:

First, if you don't think wages should be kept artificially "high" in opposition to the free market, then you probably shouldn't support a group [whose adviser](#) supported tech workers having their wages kept artificially low in opposition to that same free market.

Secondly, according to a study by the Department of Labor, [reported by NPR](#), states that have raised minimum wages appear to have actually increased their rates of employment growth at a faster pace than those which have not.

That [last guy](#), by the way — the smug looking dude in a suit who accuses me of "pandering" to... I guess... busboys and waitresses — works as a legal adjunct at the Cato institute, a libertarian think tank funded by the powerful Koch brothers.

Those same Koch brothers are also backing this weekend's [Reboot](#) conference here in San Francisco, which Mark Ames [called out](#) this past Friday for being a cesspool of racism, homophobia and hatred of pretty much everyone who isn't white and well off.

If you loved the billboard, the conference will likely give you an orgasm.