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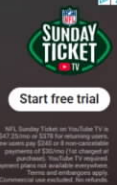
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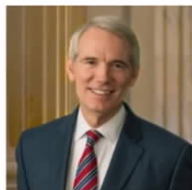


Opinion

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Rob Portman: AI boom has blue-collar workforce problem

By Rob Portman Sep 23, 2026



Rob Portman
 Courtesy photo



America's artificial intelligence future may depend as much on electricians, welders, and construction workers as it does on software engineers.

Technology companies are investing at a remarkable pace in the infrastructure needed to power AI. Microsoft, Meta, Amazon, and Alphabet are expected to spend about \$700 billion just this year. That figure doesn't include the additional investments required for semiconductor manufacturing and electric grid renovation.

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