

Americans' Opposition to Data Centers Has Nothing to Do with China



By GONG Qian & HU Dingkun

U.S. Senator Tom Cotton recently asked the Department of Justice to investigate attempts by "foreign adversaries, including China, to manipulate U.S. policy and public opinion on data centers."

Meanwhile, OpenAI released a report alleging a cluster of accounts originating in China have been spreading anti-U.S. data center messages on social media. Similar claims have previously been made by various U.S. politicians and tech figures.

These allegations share one common flaw: None provide any evidence. They are nothing more than irresponsible speculation and unfounded accusations.

On June 12, the U.S. tech news outlet Wired published an article titled "China Didn't Make Americans Hate Data Centers." It reported that Graphika, a social media analytics company, has been tracking data center opposition across several social platforms, including Facebook, Bluesky and TikTok for the past year. The piece cited Dina Sadek, an analyst at Graphika, as saying that the company has "not yet seen evidence of organized or scaled influence operations or campaigns that can be traced back to a foreign actor."

Public opposition to data centers in the U.S. has intensified in recent years.



The Amazon Web Services data center in Boardman, Oregon, U.S. (PHOTO: VCG)

A survey released in May by the consulting firm Gallup showed that 71 percent of Americans oppose local construction of AI data centers, with 48 percent strongly opposing it. A June poll by the UK policy research agency Public First shows that among the 15 countries surveyed, support for data centers in the U.S. was the lowest.

Public dissent has now become a major obstacle to data center construction in the U.S. According to the U.S. tech media outlet Ars Technica, protestors "blocked or delayed at least 75 projects nationwide worth about 130 billion USD from January through March."

The motive behind attempts by

certain U.S. politicians and tech companies to smear China as the "manipulator" of this anti-U.S. data center sentiment is therefore not difficult to discern. Eager to accelerate construction but unable to address public opposition through conventional means, they are politicizing the issue. By portraying China as the "mastermind" behind the opposition, they are seeking to stigmatize legitimate public concerns and pressure citizens into changing their views.

As U.S. sociologist Tracy McMillan Cottom noted in her commentary on the OpenAI report, there is an attempt to frame public dissent as "un-American."

Nevertheless, the negative public sentiment toward data centers is rooted in practical realities and will not be swayed by crude political tactics. A Pew Research Center survey in March showed that 38 percent of U.S. respondents believe data center construction will increase home energy costs.

This concern has already materialized. In March, the U.S. consumer advocacy group Consumer Reports reported that electricity costs across the U.S. are skyrocketing with AI data centers undoubtedly serving as a major driver. Data shows that areas with high concentrations of data centers saw electricity prices jump 267 percent over the past five years.

In an article published by *Harvard Law Today* in September 2025, Ari Peskoe, director of the Electricity Law Initiative at the Harvard Law School Environmental and Energy Law Program, explained the primary reason ordinary Americans are footing the bill for data centers: U.S. utilities build a lot of new infrastructure to generate power and deliver that power, and these costs are ultimately spread across all ratepayers. This is the "business model" of U.S. utility companies.

Blaming China will not help the U.S. data center industry win public favor. What U.S. politicians and tech companies should do is take concrete measures to mitigate the negative impacts of data centers on people's daily lives and fundamentally address legitimate public concerns, rather than using China as a scapegoat.

Voice of the World

Foreign Visitors Discover China's Dynamic Reality

By QI Liming

China has seen marked improvements in its ecological environment, continuous breakthroughs in sci-tech innovation, and sustained enhancement of people's living standards in its recent past, something which hasn't gone unnoticed by foreign officials, representatives, and scholars visiting the country, who believe other nations could take a leaf out of China's book.

Schleswig-Holstein, Germany's northernmost state, has had friendly relations with Zhejiang province in east China for 40 years. The governor of Schleswig-Holstein, Daniel Günther, said, "Over the past few decades, China has made significant progress in many fields. In areas such as electric vehicles, battery industries, and green transformation, China's progress is remarkable. I greatly admire the achievements China has made. This has provided a broader space for cooperation between Germany and China."

Moacir de Oliveira Filho, director of the Press Department, Brazilian Press Association, expressed similar sentiments. "During my two recent visits to China, I visited several cities, among which Chongqing and Shenzhen left a deep impression on me. Through the development of these two cities, I have closely observed the vibrant energy of this land, gaining a deeper understanding of China's remarkable achievements, its developmental journey, and its future direction."

After visiting Chongqing in southwest China, Sylvester Sinvula Sibungo, a senior official from Namibia's Ministry of Justice and Labor Relations, was impressed by the environment. "Here, everything is lush and green.

The ecological environment far exceeds my expectations, and it is also equipped with complete environmental protection facilities. I can clearly sense that China has put a lot of effort into protecting the environment," he said.

American Michael Spence, the winner of the 2001 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, visited Chengdu, Sichuan province in southwest China, for the first time in May.

"This place has a unique and interesting culture, and it also has a considerable number of technology industries," he said. In his opinion, the southwestern region of China needs an important financial center, and Chengdu has the potential to become such a center. Spence particularly mentioned the development of the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle. "It sounds very promising," he said, adding that this regional coordinated development model will bring more growth space to the economy of China's southwestern region.

After visiting the Dujiangyan irrigation system, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Chengdu, the director of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Neyra Paulino Estévez praised its long history, its effectiveness in flood prevention, and its lasting benefits for future generations.

In the robotics field, Georgi Milkov, special contributor to international affairs at Bulgaria's *24 Chasa (24 Hours)* newspaper, is very optimistic about the development of China's robot industry. He conducted a field investigation of the development history and training process of intelligent humanoid robots in Chengdu, saying, "Now China has achieved digitalization, and we can learn a lot from it."

Super Converters: Tech Redefines China's CBDs

Opinion

By LI Linxu

The recently held London Parallel Session of the 2026 Beijing CBD Forum shed a global spotlight on the remarkable evolution of China's central business districts (CBDs). Over the past few years, these urban hubs have steadily climbed the global value chain, commanding stronger competitiveness and earning greater international acclaim.

According to the 2025 Global Business Districts Attractiveness Report, Beijing's CBD, which was placed ninth in 2017 and seventh in 2020, now ranks sixth.

Other Chinese business districts are also making their mark: Hong Kong's

Central District holds 13th place, Shanghai's Pudong Lujiazui, which recorded the strongest improvement among Asian CBDs, stands at 14th, and Guangzhou's Tianhe CBD ranks 22nd. Collectively, they showcase China's growing clout in the global business landscape.

Today, as a fresh wave of technological and industrial revolutions reshapes the global economy, Chinese CBDs are boldly expanding their industrial boundaries. No longer confined to their traditional roles as centers for commerce, finance, and professional services, they are fast becoming the heartlands of new quality productive forces — where the digital economy and frontier tech seamlessly converge.

In terms of spatial programming, these CBDs are no longer confined to providing standardized high-end office buildings. Instead, they are forward-look-

ing in deploying highly flexible, hybrid innovation infrastructures, such as deep-tech incubators, cross-disciplinary joint laboratories, digital content creation hubs, and immersive roadshow centers.

This diversification of the industrial ecosystem, paired with the adaptive upgrading of physical venues, does more than provide fertile ground for nurturing hard-tech R&D and digital-native startups. By leveraging spatial proximity, it also catalyzes high-frequency interactions between financial capital, professional services, and technological innovation.

In effect, these districts have re-engineered themselves into "super converters" that drive supply chain upgrades and incubate cutting-edge technologies.

Jane Yang, Government & Infrastructure Market Segment leader for EY Greater China, said that for many young professionals in China today, the CBD is

no longer simply where they work. It is also where they learn, connect, and spend their time outside the office. You might see people discussing AI products during the day and attending startup talks, industry events, or evening classes after work.

Beijing's CBD offers a good example. Several older office buildings have recently been redesigned with open staircases, shared spaces, and public exhibition areas. Instead of remaining closed office environments, these buildings now host product launches, startup showcases, and industry events throughout the year.

According to Yang, the meaning of "B" in China's CBDs is being redefined. It is not only about business activity, but also about bridging — connecting industries, regions, and markets — and blending — bringing together work, life, culture, and innovation in new ways.

novation industries, the accelerated gathering of international sci-tech organizations also plays an increasingly important role in global sci-tech governance.

According to Li, global scientific innovation faces the risks of fragmentation and bloc-based competition, and the sci-tech governance system needs to be reformed. Under such circumstances, the international sci-tech organizations settling in China serve as hubs for non-biased, transnational and cross-bloc collaboration in basic research.

Yong'en of the Henan Provincial Department of Science and Technology. Among the top 10 wheat, corn, and peanut varieties by national planting area, Henan-bred varieties account for four, six, and seven respectively. Henan consistently produces over 65 billion kilograms of grain annually, with improved seed varieties covering over 97 percent of main crop areas.

From field to granary, technological innovation empowers the entire food production chain, ensuring China's food supply is more secure than it's ever been.

More International Sci-tech Organizations Choose China

From page 1

In addition to test fields for geological and space sectors, China's full industrial chain ecosystem in digital technology and advanced manufacturing sectors is also a key factor for attracting international sci-tech organizations to China.

Chen Kai, vice president of ISST and dean of the School of Automation Engineering, University of Electronic Science

and Technology of China, said intelligent sensing technology highly depends on interdisciplinary and cross-industry coordination. The ISST chose to establish its headquarters in Chengdu because of the city's research gathering capacity and industrial foundation in this field.

In Li's opinion, China's unique attraction lies in the global scientific research communities where scientists,

engineers and entrepreneurs deeply integrate. In such environment, researchers can turn China's advantages in scenarios into sources that promote theoretical breakthroughs in global basic research, thus making international sci-tech organizations play a better role and realize their values.

Apart from promoting the development of basic research and sci-tech in-

Agri-tech Innovation Secures Grain Supplies

From page 1

"Reducing loss is increasing yield," said Zheng Longzhan, a senior engineer at the Hebei Provincial Agricultural Mechanization Technology Extension Station.

Nearby, the Baodi Grain Planting Cooperative is using intelligent grain drying and storage technology. "The front warehouse can hold 200 tonnes of wet grain, with automatic loading and unloading. It

can dry 200 to 250 tonnes of wheat in 12 hours, using bio-oil as fuel, costing only four-six cents per kilogram," said Wang Dongwei, the director of the cooperative. Automated conveyors sort grain by moisture level and minimize breakage, to largely reduce grain losses.

Technological empowerment is reducing losses across the entire food production chain. The upgraded Weichai Lovol GM5125 harvester and other new

models are operating in major wheat-producing regions like Shandong, Henan, and Hebei. Featuring high-precision sensors, the harvesters display real-time grain loss levels via green/yellow/red indicators. Operators adjust settings based on real data, keeping loss rates consistently below 0.8 percent.

"From seed cultivation to unmanned farms, Henan is using innovation to boost grain output," said Li



Members of a multinational delegation visit the Dujiangyan Irrigation System in Dujiangyan, Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province, June 7, 2026. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Sci-tech Empowers Intelligent Supply Chains

From page 1

In the Advanced Manufacturing exhibition area, a 1,000-square-meter low-altitude economy zone was established, where over 30 enterprises showcased multiple application scenarios.

GREE showcased its capabilities in smart factory construction and new energy battery module production lines. Lens Technology presented a foldable ultrasonic thickness gauging product only 0.03 mm thick. Sinochem brought innovative solutions for new chemical materials in areas such as embodied intelligence and future transportation.

To promote in-depth integration of advanced manufacturing and modern services, this year's CISCE showcased application scenarios where services such as logistics distribution, financial support, and legal consultation were integrated with production and manufacturing.

The Agricultural Bank of China brought an integrated supply chain finance solution, integrating the concept of green finance throughout the entire agricultural industry chain from "farm to table." It has been increasing financial support for key areas such as food security, industrial clusters, cold-chain logistics, and green breeding.

Closer industrial partnerships

Faced with rising costs and mounting geopolitical friction, global companies are tightening supply chain networks

and forming closer industrial partnerships to protect innovation and drive trade growth. China presents the expo as a platform for openness, innovation and international collaboration.

John Denton, secretary-general of the International Chamber of Commerce, stressed that while the scale of the expo is expanding, its global significance is also increasing.

The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and representatives of the global business community issued the Beijing Initiative, calling for jointly enhancing the resilience of industrial and supply chains, and deepening cooperation within the global business community.

GE Healthcare set up a special exhibition area for its supply chain partners. For years, it has been engaged in the supply chain of high-end medical equipment in China, and driven the development of over a thousand suppliers both upstream and downstream.

The COFCO Group, in collaboration with global partners including Cargill and Louis Dreyfus, jointly released an initiative on building global agricultural and food supply chain security and resilience. It aims to promote the modernization of agriculture, digital and intelligent empowerment throughout the entire chain, and green and sustainable development.