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16 May 18 · 10 tweets · [paulbeard/status/996586097512660992](https://twitter.com/paulbeard/status/996586097512660992)



**Amazon questions its Seattle future after head tax passes**

Starbucks joined Amazon in blaming city leaders for how they spend money following a unanimous passage of a per-employee tax.

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/amazon-questions-its-seattle-future-aft...>

## | If Amazon left — took all it's 45000 workers making a median of \$110k/yr with it — would we notice?

How is Amazon's presence felt in Seattle? Would they close their stores? Hmm, they don't have any. Would they shut down charitable giving? Is there any to speak of?

I suppose we would see a slump in real estate prices and lots of office vacancies. Seems like that should be problem for the real estate/development business, the same people who have profited mightily from rising land costs but have stymied development of affordable housing.

I guess we would see closures of restaurants/bars but those are owned by the same people who don't understand opportunity cost, that a dollar spent on rent is a dollar I can't spend with them. They don't see high rents/housing prices as a problem. They don't want my business.

If Amazon wants to take itself off, I don't see that Seattle should fight to keep it. If it can get a better offer somewhere else — Charlotte, Denver, Moses Lake — go for it.

If Amazon has taught us anything it's that location doesn't matter: order from Birmingham (AL) or Bellingham (WA) and you'll get it just the same, no matter where Amazon is. If they think they can move and retain their staff, they're crazy to pay these wages and rents.

If I was a shareholder, I would question why a business that doesn't need a port, airport, or manufacturing plant needs to pay the ever-increasing wages and rents of a West Coast city. Why not co-locate the offices with the warehouses?

Or maybe being located in Seattle has some value after all. Maybe Seattle doesn't have a "spending efficiency" problem but a revenue collection problem, not charging

the land rents that it is owed by virtue of what it has to offer?

CC: [@mayorjenny](#), [@cmkshama](#), [@ByRosenberg](#)

If we had any doubt about Amazon's power in the marketplace, witness the \$20 increase in Prime memberships — an additional \$2Bn/yr, just because it felt like it.

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