R7 A6: Tax the Rich to Save the Climate

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Motion text

Insert after line 80:

- The EU needs to reduce and potentially phase-out in the short- to medium-term the use of carbon offsets to compensate for carbon emissions by both the private and public sector. The use of carbon offsets can ameliorate the effects of cap-and-trade, such as when polluters double count an emission reduction. In the case of carbon offset programs deemed necessary such as the UN's CORSIA scheme the EU needs to ensure that the necessity and use of carbon offsets is reduced. Furthermore, that the carbon offsets are part of EU certified projects, that the EU makes sure that they have little to not externalities, that land prices do not rise disproportionally, that the offsets are able to actually offset the carbon in the short- to medium-term, and that any groups and communities affected from the carbon offset projects are not excluded from the decision-making processes.

Reason

Reasoning:

Carbon offsets have shown to have negative effects on averting climate change. The biggest polluters have used carbon offsets to greenwash their polluting activities suggesting that they hit emission reduction goals. Another crucial issue is that many carbon offset projects report far greater successes in reducing carbon emission than they actually successfully do, allowing firms to pollute more than they paid for. In addition, the inherent problem of carbon offsets is that they offset carbon in the long-term, which is why using them as short-term correction for carbon emissions will simply speed up the short-term process of global warming, rather than compensate for current emissions. Moreover, it has shown to harm communities where carbon offset projects are constructed, as they are often excluded from the decision-making processes. Furthermore, carbon offsets have shown to take land away from communities to ensure their own livelihoods, this cannot be promoted, as arable and farmable land is already reducing due to global warming.

Sources:

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