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ABSTRACT

This paper documents a new fact, then analyzes its causes and consequences: in most countries, import tariffs and non-tariff barriers are substantially lower on dirty than on clean industries, where an industry's "dirtiness" is defined as its carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions per dollar of output. This difference in trade policy creates a global implicit subsidy to CO² emissions in internationally traded goods and so contributes to climate change. This global implicit subsidy to CO² emissions totals several hundred billion dollars annually. The greater protection of downstream industries, which are relatively clean, substantially accounts for this pattern. The downstream pattern can be explained by theories where industries lobby for low tariffs on their inputs but final consumers are poorly organized. A quantitative general equilibrium model suggests that if countries applied similar trade policies to clean and dirty goods, global CO² emissions would decrease and global real income would change little.

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A online appendix is available at <http://www.nber.org/data-appendix/w26845>

1 Introduction

This paper documents a new fact, then analyzes its causes and consequences: in most countries, import tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) are lower on dirty than on clean industries, where an industry’s “dirtiness” is measured by its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per dollar of output. This difference between dirty and clean industries creates an implicit subsidy to CO₂ emissions in internationally traded goods and so contributes to climate change. I describe this pattern as trade policy’s environmental bias.

This bias is widespread. I find it in most countries, in tariffs and NTBs, in cooperative and non-cooperative tariffs, and in most years. I find some evidence that these patterns have attenuated over time, though they remain large. The implicit subsidy I estimate, of \$85 to \$120 per ton of CO₂, is interesting because the global social cost of CO₂ emissions (and hence the optimal tax on CO₂ emissions) is usually estimated as around \$40 per ton of CO₂ (IWG 2016). The magnitude of the environmental bias of trade policy is therefore larger than what research suggests is an optimal tax on CO₂ emissions, and the sign is opposite—trade policy is imposing lower tax rates on dirtier goods, while an optimal carbon policy would impose higher tax rates on dirtier goods.

One way to interpret this fact is in terms of climate change policy. Optimal climate change policy would impose a uniform Pigouvian tax (or equivalent quantity mechanism like a cap-and-trade market) in all countries and industries, since CO₂ creates the same climate change externality regardless of where it is emitted. Researchers and policymakers often claim that imposing climate change policy in some countries but not others could harm domestic energy-intensive industries and lead to relocation or “leakage” of emissions, more than an absolute decrease in emissions. Climate change regulation is far from global and covers about 20 percent of global CO₂ emissions, including in the EU, California, and elsewhere (World Bank 2018). Carbon prices in these policies differ substantially across regulations and are generally below \$10/ton. Some countries have considered pairing such sub-global policy with an import tariff or border adjustment that is proportional to the CO₂ emitted from producing and transporting goods.¹

Of course, most countries already impose tariffs and NTBs on traded goods. This paper asks whether dirty industries already face higher tariffs and NTBs, which would mean that countries already implicitly have carbon tariffs in their existing trade policies. Given media emphasis on dirty industries’ political lobbying, one might expect dirtier industries to receive relatively greater trade protection. I show that this prediction is incorrect, and that dirtier industries face relatively low tariffs and NTBs.

I obtain these findings from regressions of tariff (or ad valorem NTB) rates on CO₂ intensity. I measure CO₂ intensity by inverting a global multi-region input-output table, which accounts for emissions

¹Some versions of this proposal would include rebates for exports. Several proposed U.S. climate change regulations would implement carbon tariffs, including the Waxman-Markey Bill (the American Clean Energy and Security Act), which passed the House but not the Senate in 2009; the American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act of 2014; and a current “carbon dividends” proposal by the U.S. Climate Leadership Council led by James Baker, Martin Feldstein, Greg Mankiw, and publicly endorsed by 27 economics Nobel laureates and 3500 economists. One common perception is that a carbon tariff is politically necessary (though so far not politically sufficient) to ensure support for any U.S. climate change regulation. Legal analyses suggest that regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) could allow such carbon tariffs, though disagree on exactly which type of carbon tariff WTO rules would allow (Hillman 2013; Pauwelyn 2013; Cosbey et al. 2017).

embodied in intermediate goods. For example, the CO₂ emissions rate for U.S. kitchenware accounts for the Australian coal used to produce the Chinese steel used to produce a U.S. frying pan, and the bunker and diesel fuels used to transport each. The global input-output data this paper uses, from Exiobase, describe 48 countries and 163 industries, and so generate measures of CO₂ intensity for each international and intra-national trade flow in the global economy. The tariff data are even more detailed, with 200 million tariff measures that uniquely describe each origin×destination×industry. I obtain qualitatively similar results from several other datasets and sensitivity analyses.

Why have countries imposed more protection on clean than dirty industries? Theory and evidence suggest that countries do not explicitly consider CO₂ or intend to subsidize it in choosing trade policy; indeed, I believe that countries are not even aware of the subsidy this paper highlights, since previous literature has not tested for or identified it. Instead, this paper proposes that some forces which determine trade policy are correlated with CO₂ intensity.

To determine which forces account for the association between trade policy and CO₂ intensity, the analysis considers explanations based on 20 variables suggested by theoretical and empirical research. These explanations include optimal tariffs (inverse export supply elasticities), lobbying expenditures, unionization, labor and capital shares, declining or “sunset” industries, worker wages and education, firm size, industry concentration rates, intra-industry trade, levels and trend in trade exposure, dispersion in firm sizes and in firm locations, shipping costs, unemployment, “local” pollutants like sulfur dioxide, and an industry’s upstream location. These variables are available for the U.S.; a subset is available for all countries. To address the potential endogeneity, some specifications instrument a particular political economy explanation (e.g., mean wages in a specific industry) with its value from the ten other smallest countries in the data. I focus on the ten smallest other countries since they are more likely to take conditions in the rest of the world as given. I discuss though do not find support for explanations based on production efficiency ([Diamond and Mirrlees 1971](#)).

Among these potential explanations, linear regressions and a machine learning algorithm highlight an industry’s location or “upstreamness” in global value chains as accounting for a large share of the association between CO₂ intensity and trade policy. The analysis measures upstreamness as the economic distance of each industry from final consumers ([Antràs et al. 2012](#)). More upstream industries have both lower protection and greater emissions.

I investigate one political economy explanation for the covariance of upstreamness and trade policy involving lobbying competition. Firms may lobby for high tariffs and NTBs on their own outputs, but also lobby for low tariffs on their the goods they use directly and indirectly as inputs, so as to decrease production costs.² Because final consumers are poorly organized ([Olson 1965](#)), politicians give the least

²Firms publicly emphasize this rationale. When President Trump initially proposed tariffs on steel, the American Automotive Policy Council announced, “The auto industry and the U.S. workers that the industry employs would be adversely affected and that [*sic*] this unintended negative impact would exceed the benefit provided to the steel industry” ([Gibson 2017](#)). The Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition (CITAC), a twenty-year old U.S. lobby group focused on decreasing tariffs on upstream industries, experienced a doubling of membership during a “Stand up to Steel” campaign, and supported a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 2770) to give steel consumers greater standing in trade cases. When President Obama imposed tariffs on Chinese tires, CITAC responded, “[W]e believe that this case will undermine the jobs of many more US

protection to the upstream industries (which are also the dirtiest) and the greatest protection to the most downstream industries (which are also the cleanest).

A partial equilibrium back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that this global subsidy to CO₂ emissions totals \$550 to \$800 billion dollars per year. This can be interpreted as revenue that a carbon tariff would collect if it had the same pattern as trade policy's environmental bias (i.e., -\$85/ton to -\$120/ton).

I then use a set of general equilibrium models to assess how counterfactual trade policies would affect CO₂ emissions and social welfare. These analyses use strong assumptions that of course provide a very imperfect approximation of reality. I first provide analytical results from a simple two-country, two-good model. In a simple version, increasing trade costs for dirty goods decreases global emissions, especially when baseline trade in dirty goods is common and when demand is elastic.

I then use a many-industry, many-country general equilibrium model with several common features—input-output links, trade imbalances, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel, trade imbalances, tariffs that are lump-sum rebated, and NTBs (Costinot and Rodriguez-Clare 2014; Caliendo and Parro 2015; Eaton et al. 2016; Shapiro 2016). I study six sets of counterfactual policies. In the first, each country sets a single tariff per trading partner which applies to all industries, and which equals the country's mean baseline bilateral tariff. Each country implements a similar reform for NTBs. This counterfactual decreases global CO₂ emissions while leaving global real income unchanged or slightly increased. It has similar magnitude effects on CO₂ as two of the world's largest actual or proposed climate change policies, the EU Emissions Trading System and the U.S. Waxman-Markey Bill. In the second counterfactual, only the EU adopts this policy. One could think of this as a way for the EU to address leakage from its CO₂ cap-and-trade market, the EU Emissions Trading System. This decreases global CO₂ emissions by half the amount of the global policy, and again leaves global real income unchanged or slightly higher.

The third and fourth counterfactuals find that changing tariffs and NTBs to equal either the baseline level of the cleanest third or dirtiest third of industries decreases global CO₂ emissions by several percentage points. Fifth, I consider a counterfactual in which every country adds a tariff proportional to goods' CO₂ intensity, i.e., a carbon tariff. This has modest environmental benefits. Finally, if countries completely eliminated tariffs and NTBs, both global CO₂ emissions and real income would rise. Although turning off trade policy by definition eliminates trade policy's environmental bias, the resulting increase in income dwarfs this effect.

This paper has potentially important policy implications. In a first-best setting where every country implemented uniform carbon prices on all CO₂ emissions, trade policy would have no role in efficient climate policy. In a second-best setting where political economy constraints make optimal climate change policy infeasible, considering environmental concerns in designing trade policy could potentially increase welfare. But in either setting, a trade policy which subsidizes CO₂ may be inefficient, and hence limiting the greater protection of clean relative to dirty goods could increase welfare. I believe this type of policy, which considers the CO₂ intensity of an industry in negotiating bilateral or multilateral trade policy

workers in downstream industries..." (Business Wire 2009).

across industries but without a formal carbon tariff, has not been discussed in government or academia.³ Such reforms may appeal to groups that typically disagree – dirty industries and environmentalists – because they can maintain protection of dirty domestic industries (at least relative to clean industries) while decreasing global CO₂ emissions. More broadly, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has sought to decrease protection of downstream relative to upstream industries, since such trade policy reforms would let developing countries sell more advanced technologies to industrialized countries. This paper suggests that such WTO goals may also help address climate change.

Several caveats are worth noting. This paper refers to the higher tariff and NTB rates on clean relative to dirty goods as an implicit “subsidy” to CO₂ emissions. This “subsidy” refers to a lower tax rate in a setting where most goods face positive taxes (tariffs and NTBs). This difference in trade policy may encourage countries to purchase more clean goods domestically and dirty goods from abroad; internationally traded goods within an industry are more CO₂-intensive both because they require long-distance transportation and because they tend to be outsourced to countries like China and India that rely heavily on coal for production and so are CO₂-intensive (Shapiro 2016). The difference in trade policy also encourages firms and final consumers to substitute from consuming cleaner to dirtier goods (e.g., substituting from aluminum to steel). For these reasons and since the quantitative analysis finds that the difference in trade policy between clean and dirty industries increases global CO₂ emissions, I refer to this difference in trade policy as a “subsidy.” This is a global subsidy—for example, if France imposes low import tariffs on dirty goods, this may increase CO₂ emissions from French trading partners and from the globe overall, though could decrease these emissions from within France.

It is also worth discussing the implications of using a second-best tool like trade policy as an alternative or complement to traditional environmental taxes on production or consumption. Important debates have considered the merits of taxing pollution through trade policy (e.g., Kortum and Weisbach 2016). One point of this paper is that current trade policy is subsidizing pollution for political economy (not efficiency) reasons, which no theoretical or empirical arguments claim is efficient.

This paper builds on several literatures. I believe this paper is the first to report the association of tariffs or NTBs with the pollution emitted to produce different goods, and the first to quantify the environmental consequences of harmonizing trade policy between clean and dirty goods. Research on trade and the environment asks how hypothetical changes in aggregate trade flows affect pollution, studies hypothetical carbon tariffs, or investigates how environmental policies and attributes of industries affect trade flows though not trade policies (Antweiler 1996; Copeland and Taylor 2003; Frankel and Rose 2005; Fowlie et al. 2016; Shapiro and Walker 2018). A large literature studies the consequences of hypothetical carbon border tax adjustments, relying primarily on computable general equilibrium (CGE) models and largely or completely abstracting from existing patterns of tariffs or NTBs. An entire field of academia, industrial ecology, quantifies the pollution required to produce internationally traded goods. Research

³Such reforms are likely feasible within WTO regulations. The WTO does not primarily regulate NTBs, so most changes in NTBs are permissible. WTO members negotiate maximum (“binding”) tariffs on trading partners. The binding tariffs do constrain the maximum possible level, but WTO members have flexibility in choosing tariffs below those levels through bilateral or multilateral agreements.

in industrial ecology and economics measures pollution embodied in traded goods (e.g., [Antweiler 1996](#); [Davis and Caldeira 2010](#); [Aichele and Felbermayr 2012](#)). None of this work compares its measures of pollution embodied in traded goods against actual current levels of tariffs or NTBs.

This paper also introduces tariffs and NTBs as a new setting to study political economy and the environment. Research on the political economy of environmental policy is limited. Some work does use [Grossman and Helpman \(1994\)](#)'s "Protection for Sale" model to study domestic environmental policy ([Fredriksson 1997](#); [Schleich and Orden 2000](#)). Trade policy provides an appealing setting to study political economy and the environment because it governs the more than 20 percent of CO₂ that crosses international borders embodied in traded goods, substantially affects pollution, creates easily-observed tax rates that vary across industries and countries, and depends on political economy forces like lobbying.

This paper also builds on an older trade policy literature by providing the first nonparametric evidence of "tariff escalation" – the phenomenon that more processed goods face higher tariffs – using continuous measures of upstreamness; the first evidence of NTB escalation, which is important since NTBs create a larger trade barrier than tariffs in industrialized countries; and the first empirical link between tariff escalation and the environment. [Corden \(1966, p. 228\)](#) in the *Journal of Political Economy* described tariff escalation as "so well known that detailed substantiation is hardly needed." Research on tariff escalation has since become uncommon, despite renewed interest in global value chains. While the existing literature generally identifies tariff escalation by reporting three mean tariff rates, for "primary," "intermediate," and "consumer goods" ([Balassa 1965](#); [Golub and Finger 1979](#); [Marvel and Ray 1983](#)), I propose that upstreamness provides a natural and continuous measure to use for studying escalation. Upstreamness is also related to the explanation for tariff escalation that upstream industries may lobby for low tariffs on their intermediate inputs ([Cadot et al. 2004](#); [Gawande et al. 2012](#)). I am not aware of prior work interpreting tariff escalation through the full measure of upstreamness, though [Gawande et al. \(2012\)](#) relate it to the simpler measure of the share of an industry's output sold as intermediates. I show that upstreamness is more strongly associated with tariffs or NTBs than are most other standard explanations for trade policy. The most relevant recent other parts of the trade policy literature link trade policy to global value chains ([Antràs and Staiger 2012](#); [Blanchard et al. 2016](#)) and link trade policy to other domains like the environment ([Copeland 2000](#); [Maggi 2016](#)).

The paper proceeds as follows. Section 2 describes the data and Section 3 the econometrics. Section 4 discusses the relationship between pollution intensity and trade policy. Section 5 evaluates political economy explanations. Section 6 evaluates consequences of counterfactual reforms. Section 7 concludes.

2 Data

I combine data on three types of variables: trade policy, pollution emissions, and political economy. Unless otherwise noted, all data represent a cross-section for the year 2007 (which is the year Exiobase covers) or the closest available year. I show some estimates with multiple years of U.S. data. Online Appendix A.1 discusses concordance files.

2.1 Trade Policy

Tariffs are the most easily-quantified trade policy instrument, but NTBs are increasing in importance. I obtain data on tariff rates from the Market Access Map (Macmap) database. A 2-digit Harmonized System (HS) code version of these data is freely available online. I purchased the 6-digit HS code version from the French *Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations* (CEPII) (Guimbard et al. 2012). The data provide the most comprehensive tariff records available. The data distinguish 5,000 different goods (6-digit Harmonized System codes) for 190 countries and account for most-favored nation tariffs, regional trade agreements, free trade agreements, customs unions, and tariff-rate quotas. The data cover all bilateral trading partners.

For tariffs on U.S. imports, I use records from the Census Bureau's Imports of Merchandise files. While Macmap lists statutory tariff rates (i.e., official policy), Census records list tariff duties actually paid, so permit calculation of effective tariff rates. As the many types of tariffs in the Macmap database illustrate, accurately interpreting tariff schedules and their exemptions is complex and can introduce measurement error; observing statutory tariffs, as in the U.S., avoids this complexity. The U.S. data are reported at the level of a 10-digit Harmonized System (HS) code, and I use a version linked to six-digit North American Industrial Classification System codes (NAICS; see Schott 2008). I calculate U.S. effective import tariff rates as the total duty collected, divided by the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) value of trade.

Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) include policy barriers to trade that are not tariffs, such as price regulations, product standards, quantity restrictions like quotas, or others.⁴ I use data from Kee et al. (2009) on the dollar (i.e., ad valorem) equivalent of NTBs; they describe how they calculate these values from raw data in the World Bank's World Integrated Trade Solutions (WITS) system. These NTB values are calculated for each 6-digit HS code, for a year around 2000-2003 (the exact year varies across countries), and for about 100 countries. The World Bank has been working to update the NTB data, though the more recent data are not complete or available for research. I interpret these NTBs as applying to all international trade, including between EU countries (Chen and Novy 2012). The NTB data exclude five countries that are separately distinguished in Exiobase and WIOD, so I exclude these from the analysis—Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Slovak Republic, and Taiwan. I do not use data on other trade policy instruments since they are not readily available for all countries, though Bond et al. (2019) find some evidence of links between upstreamness and protection using data on export tax equivalents of China's value added tax rebates.

⁴A global social planner might set tariff rates to zero, since tariffs largely exist for political economy or terms-of-trade reasons. A global planner might set some NTBs to non-zero rates, since some NTBs could address market failures in health, safety, or the environment. I abstract from efficiency rationales for NTBs in part since I am not aware of data distinguishing the extent to which each country and industry's NTBs are efficient versus reflect rent-seeking and protectionism. It is generally believed that NTB rates have risen in recent decades partly in response to decreased tariff rates, which would suggest that NTBs primarily represent protection rather than correction of market failures.

2.2 CO₂ Emissions

I first explain my approach to measuring CO₂ emissions informally for one closed economy, then explain it formally, then discuss multiple open countries, and finally describe data sources.

Consider two types of CO₂ emissions. First, an industry burns fossil fuels to produce output. Second, an industry purchases intermediate goods as inputs that themselves require CO₂ emissions to produce. I describe the first channel as “direct” CO₂ emissions and the second as “indirect.” An input-output table for one country contains one row per industry and one column per industry. Each value in the table represents the dollars of output from an industry in a row required to produce a dollar of output of the industry indicated in a column. This permits calculation of direct CO₂ emissions, since it shows how many dollars of coal, oil, and natural gas are required to produce a dollar of output in each other industry. To calculate direct CO₂ emissions, I consider the rows for the coal extraction, oil extraction, and natural gas extraction industries. The analysis uses independent data on the national price per physical unit of each fossil fuel and on the physical emissions rate (i.e., the tons of CO₂ emitted per ton of coal, barrel of oil, or cubic foot of natural gas burned). Multiplying these coal, oil, and gas input expenditures by the tons of CO₂ emitted per dollar of fossil fuel burned gives the direct emissions rate. This approach to using an input-output matrix to account for pollution is standard (Miller and Blair 2009, p. 447) and resembles what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change calls the “Tier 1” or “default” method of calculating CO₂ emissions. It is designed to measure emissions from producing goods, which is appropriate for an analysis of tariffs on internationally traded goods.⁵

This approach can calculate direct but not indirect emissions. For example, the emissions rate for cookware in this approach reflects fossil fuels burned to shape steel into a pan (which are listed in the cookware industry column) but not fossil fuels used to make the steel in the first place (which are listed in the steel industry column or its input industries like electricity). As shown formally below, inverting the input-output matrix permits calculation of total emissions, which equal the sum of direct and indirect emissions. This inverse indicates the dollars of coal, oil, and natural gas required to produce a dollar of output in each industry, including the coal, oil, and natural gas embodied in intermediate goods, and inputs to intermediates, and inputs to these inputs, etc. Environmental economists call this a “life cycle” measure of emissions; international economists call it a “value chain” measure.

Continuing this explanation for a single closed economy, let S denote the number of industries in the economy and let A be an $S \times S$ input-output table where each row lists the industry supplying inputs and each column lists the industry demanding outputs. Each entry in the matrix A describes the dollars of input from the industry in a given row required to produce a dollar of output for the industry in a given column. Let x be an $S \times 1$ column vector describing each industry’s gross output and let d be an $S \times 1$ vector of final demand, including exports. An accounting identity states that each industry’s gross output equals the value of its output used for intermediate goods in all industries plus the value of its output

⁵One could also wonder how domestic or “behind-the-border” policies affect the choice among energy-consuming durable goods like cars or air conditioners. While Section 4.2 discusses sensitivity analyses designed to account for energy used in consuming these goods, a detailed analysis of energy consumption for these goods and associated policies is the topic of an active body of research that uses models specialized to these sectors (e.g., Bento et al. 2009; Jacobsen et al. 2019).

used for final demand: $x = Ax + d$. Simple algebra then reveals the total amount of intermediate inputs (including both direct and indirect inputs) required to produce a dollar of final demand: $x = (I - A)^{-1}d$. The matrix $(I - A)^{-1}$ is called the Leontief inverse or the matrix of total requirements. It describes the dollars of each input, including those required to produce intermediate inputs, and inputs to inputs, etc. required to produce an additional dollar of final demand.

I apply this approach to calculate emissions rates for a dollar of final demand in each industry. I focus on CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion since it accounts for most greenhouse gas emissions and uses the most accurate methods. A sensitivity analysis obtains qualitatively similar results from the additional main greenhouse gases (methane and nitrous oxide), and emissions from processes that are not fossil fuel combustion. This approach does not account for changes in CO₂ emissions from goods that are complementary with or substitutes for the good of interest, which may be most relevant for energy-consuming durable goods like vehicles or housing.

Extending this approach to multiple open countries and industries is straightforward. Let N denote the number of countries. In a multi-region input-output table, A is an $NS \times NS$ matrix, where each row is a specific country×industry and each column is a specific country×industry. For example, one table entry might show the dollars of Chinese steel (one row) required to produce a dollar of U.S. cookware (one column). Then x and d are $NS \times 1$ column vectors describing gross output and final demand, respectively. Using a multi-region input-output table, the rest of the analysis proceeds as above.

Measuring CO₂ emissions from an input-output table can involve several pitfalls. One pitfall is that using the average national price of a fossil fuel assumes that all industries face this price. Input-output tables measure expenditures in currency (e.g., dollar) terms, while CO₂ emissions are in physical quantities (metric tons of CO₂). The data on CO₂ emissions use the mean national price of each fossil fuel (e.g., dollars per ton of coal) to translate from currency to quantities. Emission rates (e.g., tons of CO₂ emitted per ton of coal) are then used to translate from quantities of fossil fuels to quantities of CO₂. Bulk discounts, transportation costs, market power, and other forces can make fossil fuel prices differ across industries. Another potential pitfall is that one fossil fuel can vary in its CO₂ intensity—different varieties of coal, for example, have modestly different CO₂ emitted per ton of coal. Additionally, some fossil fuels are physically transformed into products (“feedstocks”), rather than being burned, such as crude oil transformed into plastic. Moreover, input-output tables abstract from heterogeneity within a country×industry—large firms, or firms that export to specific destinations, can have different emissions than the average firm (Lyubich et al. 2018).

I address these pitfalls in a few ways. I address heterogeneity in fossil fuel prices and CO₂ rates in part by constructing instrumental variables for CO₂ rates, described below. I address feedstocks by using measures of CO₂ intensity from Exiobase that exclude fossil fuels used for feedstocks. I abstract from heterogeneity in emission rates within a country×industry.

I am not aware of approaches besides the use of input-output tables that can measure emission rates from all industries and countries, and particularly to account for emissions embodied in intermediate goods. National surveys of firms can measure emission rates directly; as described below, I use one

such survey for the U.S., and it does not substantially change estimates. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes two other approaches to measuring CO₂—“Tier 2” uses country-specific data on emission factors and other variables, and “Tier 3” uses country-specific specialized engineering models and location specific data that are tailored to national circumstances. Because it is country-specific, Tier 3 is difficult to use for comparisons across all countries and industries, and I am not aware of data for all countries and industries using the Tier 2 approach.

An example may clarify what this approach does and does not measure. The emission rate for the vehicle manufacturing industry includes the coal, oil, and natural gas burned to produce the steel, rubber, engine, and assembly of the vehicle, and transportation of the components between the respective manufacturing plants. The emissions rate for vehicle manufacturing does not account for combustion of goods like gasoline that are complements or substitutes for manufactured vehicles. I report sensitivity analyses which adjust the emission rate for energy-consuming durable goods like cars to account for the energy services used to operate them.

Several data sources help measure CO₂ emissions. The main dataset is Exiobase, which combines trade data, input-output tables, and national accounts to construct a global multi-region input-output table. Exiobase reports the direct CO₂ emissions per million Euros of output for every country×industry. To construct data on CO₂ emissions per country×industry, Exiobase primarily uses emissions data from the International Energy Agency (IEA 2007a,b,c). I use Exiobase’s calculated CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion for each country×industry. I convert Euros to dollars using the mean annual exchange rate from the IMF’s International Financial Statistics and deflate to 2016 dollars using the U.S. GDP deflator. The main Exiobase sample is restricted to observations with non-missing tariffs, NTBs, and CO₂ rates. Online Appendix A.2 provides additional details on Exiobase.

I then calculate total (direct+indirect) emissions rates from Exiobase as follows. Let L_{ijst} denote an entry of the Leontief inverse $L = (I - A)^{-1}$, i.e., the dollars of output from industry s in country i required to produce one dollar of output from industry t in country j , including the entire global value chain (inputs, inputs to inputs, etc.). Let E_{is}^{direct} be the direct emissions from producing a dollar of output from country i in industry s , i.e., the CO₂ emitted from the coal, oil, and natural gas used directly in this country×industry. Exiobase reports E_{is}^{direct} . Then the total emissions rate is $E_{jt} = \sum_{i,s} L_{ijst} E_{is}^{direct}$.

I report separate results using U.S. data primarily for data quality reasons—the U.S. provides a second and independent measure of CO₂ emissions, provides greater industry detail (around 350 NAICS 6-digit industries), reports effective and not just statutory tariff rates, and generally provides higher-quality and better-documented data. The U.S.-only analysis uses U.S. data for both tariffs and CO₂ emissions, and therefore implicitly assumes that emissions rates in other countries are the same as in the U.S. The global analysis does not make this assumption. Online Appendix A.5 describes additional data used to measure U.S. CO₂ emissions. This approach relying on the U.S. data is more similar to how the Waxman-Markey bill, which passed the U.S. House but not the Senate in 2009, and other U.S. CO₂ cap-and-trade proposals would measure CO₂ emissions for border tax adjustments. Some also argue that measuring CO₂ emissions for a carbon border adjustment from domestic emission rates rather than from the CO₂

content of imports would have a stronger legal basis at the WTO (Staiger 2018). At the same time, this strong assumption of the U.S.-only analysis is important to bear in mind.

2.3 Political Economy Explanations

Why do different industries face different trade policies, or any trade policy at all? One explanation involves optimal tariffs and the terms of trade—a large country can privately benefit by imposing small import tariffs on its trading partners. In this classic explanation, a country’s privately optimal tariff equals the inverse of the foreign export supply elasticity it faces (Bickerdike 1907). Optimal tariffs could correlate with CO₂ intensity, since optimal tariffs are higher on more differentiated industries, and clean industries may be more differentiated.

The second set of theories involves political economy. The more influential of these theories focus on organized interest groups (Olson 1965; Grossman and Helpman 1994, 1995; Maggi and Rodríguez-Clare 1998, 2007). Organized industries can provide campaign contributions to politicians, hire lobbyists, organize media campaigns, and in other ways use centralized organization to obtain trade protection. Politicians may find it privately optimal to distort trade policy in response to this lobbying, but in most settings a social planner would not. This simplifies the analysis somewhat, as the welfare cost of changing trade policy equals the change in the gains from trade plus the change in trade policy’s environmental consequences. Apart from justifications for some NTBs, which I mention earlier, market failures do not typically justify trade policy.

Empirical analogues to these political economy explanations come from a range of studies and data sources. Some political economy variables are available separately for each country×industry in Exiobase; I extract these variables and use them for the global analysis. A larger set of political economy variables are available from U.S. data; I use these data to analyze the U.S. only. The introduction lists each variable; Online Appendix A.3 describes measurement of each variable and their data sources. I choose variables to include following existing empirical trade policy research (Pincus 1975; Caves 1976; Anderson 1980; Ray 1981; Marvel and Ray 1987; Trefler 1993; Baldwin and Robert-Nicoud 2007; Freund and Çaglar Özden 2008), especially Rodrik (1995).

Because it is particularly relevant to this paper’s setting, I add a measure of “local” air pollution emissions and damages not discussed in the trade literature. Firms’ emissions of air pollutants, in addition to emissions of pollution through water, land, and other media, create local external costs. These externalities could lead to policies like low tariffs and NTBs on dirty industries which seek to relocate polluting activity to other countries.⁶

I discuss the one variable here which turns out to be the most important. I measure each industry’s “upstreamness” as the average economic distance of an industry from final use. One can also interpret upstreamness as the mean position of an industry’s output in a vertical production chain (Antràs and

⁶Another interpretation is that many regions impose domestic local zoning restrictions that relocate dirty production from richer to poorer areas. Similarly, imposing low tariffs and NTBs on dirty goods could reflect wealthy countries’ efforts to relocate dirty production to poor countries.

Chor 2013) or as the share of an industry’s output sold to relatively upstream industries (Fally 2012). If industry i is measured to be more upstream than industry j , this does not imply that industry i actually supplies industry j . Rather, this simply implies that industry i on average is further in economic distance from final consumers than industry j is. Online Appendix A.3 presents the formal equation used to measure upstreamness and discusses its measurement.

2.4 Tariffs On Intermediate Versus Final Goods

I discuss one exercise that may both provide insight on data quality and a public good for research. Some research defines tariffs on intermediate and final goods based on a United Nations Broad Economic Codes (BEC) classification of roughly a dozen broad industry codes into materials, intermediate inputs, and consumer goods (Mishra and Spilimbergo 2011; Amiti et al. 2014; Brandt et al. 2017).

The data in this paper allow an alternative approach. For each source country in Exiobase, I define the third of industries that are most upstream as “intermediate goods” and the third of industries that are least upstream as “final goods.” For each destination country (importer), I then calculate the mean tariff on “intermediate goods” and the mean tariff on “final goods.” I separately calculate weighted and unweighted averages. An advantage of this approach is that it defines intermediate and final good tariffs based on input-output links between industries, rather than on written industry titles. In case these data are useful for other research, I have posted them, along with the associated BEC averages, online at <http://joseph-s-shapiro.com/data.html>.

My and the BEC definitions obtain similar mean tariffs—mean weighted tariffs for intermediate goods are 2.3 and 2.6 percent in my and the BEC measures, respectively; and tariffs for final goods are 6.5 and 6.3 percent. My measure has more dispersion – tariffs have a standard deviation of 8.8 versus 7.0 percent – in part since Exiobase allows more detailed industry codes than the BEC, and since the set of which industries are upstream varies slightly across countries in my approach but not in the BEC classification. In a dataset where each observation is an importer×industry (with two industries, “intermediate” and “final”), a regression of my tariff measure on the BEC measure and a constant obtains a regression coefficient of 0.75 (robust standard error 0.11) in levels or 1.28 (0.11) in logs.

3 Econometrics

3.1 Trade Policy and CO₂ Intensity

To measure differences in trade policy between clean and dirty industries, I estimate the following:

$$t_{js} = \alpha E_{js} + \mu_j + \epsilon_{js} \tag{1}$$

The dependent variable t is the mean import tariff rate or ad valorem NTBs that destination country j imposes on goods in industry s . In the global data, s represents the foreign industry which produced

the good, not the domestic industry which consumed it. For example, the emissions rate E for Mexican imports of steel reflects the mean emissions from steel production in all countries from which Mexico imports, while the tariffs t reflects Mexico’s import tariffs on steel. Equation (1) has a j rather than both i and j subscript because the analyses averages across origin countries (weighted by the value of each trade flow) for three reasons: this enhances comparability between tariffs and NTBs, since the latter are defined only by destination country and industry; this helps address the presence of zero trade flows between some origin×destination×industry tuples; and this increases comparability of these regressions with political economy variables, which are observed at the country×industry level. I show some results with separate observations for each exporter×importer×industry ($i \times j \times s$) tuple.

The main explanatory variable, E , represents the tons of CO₂ emitted per dollar of imported good. As discussed earlier, E is calculated from inverting an input-output table, so includes both direct CO₂ emissions, which are those emitted from industry s , and indirect emissions, which are those emitted from industries used as inputs to industry s , and inputs to inputs, etc.⁷

The destination country fixed effect μ_j implies that this regression compares trade policy across industries within a country. The thought experiment is a country applying similar trade policy on dirty and clean goods. This counterfactual fits the political economy of choosing trade policy, which is made by national authorities. I also show sensitivity analyses without these fixed effects. The idiosyncratic error ϵ contains all unmodeled determinants of import tariff rates.

Equation (1) allows a useful interpretation: the parameter α represents the carbon tariff implicit in existing trade policy. The regression has this interpretation because t is measured in dollars of tariff duties (or NTB equivalent) per dollar of imports and E is measured in tons of CO₂ per dollar of imports. Therefore α represents duties collected per ton of CO₂ emitted.⁸ For example, $\alpha = 40$ would imply that an additional \$40 of import duties (or NTB ad valorem equivalent) is collected for each additional ton of CO₂ embodied in a good. My finding of $\alpha \approx -85$ to -120 implies that current trade policy embodies a carbon subsidy in trade policy of 85 to 120 dollars per ton of CO₂. As mentioned in the introduction, I refer to this as a “subsidy” in part because it represents a lower tax rate for traded dirty goods, even though it occurs in a setting where most traded goods face positive taxes.

Equation (1) does not estimate a causal effect of CO₂ intensity on tariffs. Rather, it is a descriptive regression showing the covariance of carbon intensity and trade policy within each country, and so recovers

⁷Formally, $E_{js} = (\sum_{i \neq j,t} E_{ijst} X_{ijst}) / \sum_{i \neq j,t} X_{ijst}$, where E_{ijst} is the emissions rate from inverting the global input-output table, and X_{ijst} is the value of the trade flow from origin country i and origin industry s to destination country j and destination industry t . The summation excludes $i = j$ because the emissions rate relevant for carbon tariffs and international trade applies only to international imports, not to intra-national trade. The emissions rate E_{ijst} differs by importer×exporter×industry. For example, the emissions rate for U.S. steel imports from China differs from the emissions rate for U.S. steel imports from Canada. These emissions rates differ because China and Canada use different fossil fuel inputs, both directly and indirectly.

⁸Imports appear to be in the denominator of both the left- and right- hand sides of equation (1), which could produce spurious correlation. In practice in the global data, as Section 2.1 explains, t is measured as statutory tariffs (or NTB equivalents). Hence, t reflects published regulations about which tariff rate applies to different types of products, and t is not measured through dividing data on duties collected by data on imports. In the U.S. data, t equals duties collected divided by imports. But as Section 2.2 explains, in the U.S. data, E equals emissions from a U.S. industry’s production of CO₂ (including life cycle CO₂) divided by the industry’s gross output. Additionally, the U.S. value of E from the input-output table is instrumented with its value from the direct survey MECS. Hence, the measurement of these variables in data limits the scope for bias from spurious correlation.

the carbon tariff implicit in trade policy. As discussed earlier, Section 5 develops the interpretation that underlying political economy forces determine tariffs as a function of variables that are omitted from equation (1); these forces are correlated with CO₂ intensity.

In equation (1), trade policy t is the dependent variable and the emissions rate E is the independent variable, for three reasons: this fits with the theoretical interpretation that an industry’s emissions rate is correlated with other political determinants of trade policy; this allows empirical tests of whether the coefficient α represents correlation of CO₂ with omitted political economy variables that determine trade policy; and this allows the coefficient α to be interpreted as the implicit carbon tariff.

Alternatively, one could consider the reverse regression of the emissions rate E on the level of trade policy t . I also show some results using this reverse regression. Trade policy could potentially affect emissions intensities, either through changing import shares (e.g., affecting emissions embodied in intermediate goods) or through affecting productivity (via reallocation, entry, etc.). Some evidence for individual country liberalization episodes suggests that trade liberalization affects plant-level emissions of air or climate change pollution (Martin 2011; Cherniwchan 2017), though I am not aware of any direct evidence on how trade policy systematically affects emissions rates of global bilateral trade flows, which would be an interesting subject for future research.

Most regressions are clustered by industry. I also report some results with standard errors clustered by importer. For the U.S.-only analysis, where each observation is an industry, clustering by industry is equivalent to reporting robust standard errors.

The main estimates in the paper, including those of equation (1), include only observations for manufacturing. This makes the global and U.S. data consistent, since the U.S. MECS data are only available for manufacturing, and is consistent with much of the trade literature. The measure of total CO₂ intensity in all these analysis accounts for emissions embodied in intermediate goods from all sectors, not just manufacturing. I report sensitivity analyses that also include other tradable goods (agriculture and mining).

Most literature using global multi-region input-output tables abstracts from measurement error. This paper discusses potential bias from measurement error and reports alternative results that may help address it. Measuring CO₂ intensity from an input-output table may involve two types of measurement error. The first is potentially relevant to all analysis with input-output tables—the input-output table itself has errors-in-variables. Constructing an input-output table requires judgments of analysts from national statistical agencies and adjustment through linear programming (Horowitz and Planting 2006). Second, prices paid for each fossil fuel vary by industry, and input-output tables lack data on such industry-specific input prices. Both types of measurement error could attenuate OLS estimates of α .

To address potential measurement error in measures of CO₂ intensity, I use direct emissions as an instrumental variable for total emissions. The first-stage regression is

$$E_{js} = \beta E_{js}^{direct} + \mu_j + \eta_{js} \quad (2)$$

The second stage is equation (1). Here E_{js} measures total (direct+indirect) emissions from the input-

output table and E_{js}^{direct} measures direct emissions. Direct emissions reflect fossil fuels used in industry s but not fossil fuels embodied in intermediate goods used in industry s . For example, the direct emissions for producing a car include the natural gas used to heat and weld the car parts together at the car factory but not the coal used to produce steel that is then shipped to the car factory.

The instrument is only designed to address attenuation bias due to measurement error. Omitted variables and reverse causality are not problems here because this descriptive analysis estimates the covariance of CO₂ intensity and trade policy within each country, not a causal effect of CO₂ intensity.⁹ First-stage regressions and the associated F statistics can test whether this instrument is strong. Because direct emissions constitute a large part of total emissions, this instrument is likely to be strong.

Because this instrument is designed to address measurement error, the main question for validity is whether any measurement error in direct and total emissions is independent. If so, then this instrument can eliminate attenuation bias due to measurement error. If not, then the IV estimates may be biased towards the OLS (i.e., the IV estimates will still suffer from attenuation bias, though less than OLS).

For the U.S. data, this instrument may help correct measurement error since the instrument is built from a separate dataset, MECS, which measures physical fossil fuel consumption separately by industry. Documentation of U.S. input-output tables does not mention MECS ([Horowitz and Planting 2006](#)).

In the global data, the instrument still may help address potential measurement error, but because direct and total emissions are measured from the same dataset, the instrument’s validity is not certain. Many countries’ industrial surveys collect plant-level data on electricity and fossil fuel expenditures, which suggests that input-output tables may measure direct emissions with limited measurement error. Usually, these surveys just ask about total expenditures on “materials” without disaggregating by sourcing industry, which suggests they may less accurately measure total emissions. Additionally, energy is typically purchased from a limited number of suppliers (in some countries, state-owned firms), and many countries survey these suppliers. At the same time, the instrument in the global data may not completely eliminate measurement error. The instrument is the direct emissions rate in the 10 smallest other countries. The validity of such leave-out instruments can be less clear than the validity of some other types of instruments, in part due to concerns about the reflection problem ([Manski 1993](#)). Due to the possibility that measurement error persists in the global estimates, the true global subsidy may be larger in absolute value than what I estimate.

3.2 Political Economy Explanations

I then test the hypothesis that the association between trade policy and CO₂ intensity reflects variables that are omitted from equation (1) but that both determine trade policy and correlate with CO₂ intensity.

I estimate linear regressions including potential variables F_{js} that are believed to explain trade policy,

⁹Since trade policy can change trade volumes, one might wonder whether reverse causality affects the weights X_{ijst} used to calculate E_{js} . This is not a primary concern here for two reasons. First, this does not change the descriptive interpretation of α in equation (1) as the association between trade policy and CO₂ intensity. Second, I report some results at the $i \times j \times s$ level, which do not require averaging over trading partners.

along with CO₂ intensity:

$$t_{js} = \beta E_{js} + \pi F_{js} + \mu_j + \epsilon_{js} \quad (3)$$

I estimate a separate regression for each political economy variable F_{js} then assess which of these political economy variables most attenuates the estimated covariance β between trade policy and carbon intensity.

In separate estimates, I control for all potential political economy explanations at once. I implement this regression using both linear regression and using the least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (Lasso), which is a common machine learning algorithm for automatic model selection (Tibshirani 1996). Identifying which variables Lasso includes in a model can be informative though also sensitive to specification (Mullainathan and Speiss 2017). These regressions test whether each variable, including CO₂ intensity, has additional explanatory power for trade policy beyond these other variables.

4 Results: Trade Policy and CO₂ Intensity

4.1 Summary Statistics

Table 1 describes the cleanest and dirtiest industries in the global data, ranked by total (direct+indirect) CO₂ emissions. Panel A shows the cleanest five industries while Panel B shows the dirtiest. Column (1) shows mean CO₂ rates across all countries, column (2) shows mean tariffs, and column (3) shows NTBs.

The cleanest five manufacturing industries primarily produce food products and have a mean global emissions rate of 0.37 tons CO₂ per thousand dollars of output. The dirtiest five manufacturing industries mostly produce heavy goods like bricks or steel and have a mean global emissions rate of 1.88 tons CO₂ per thousand dollars of output. Motor vehicles appear relatively clean in these data (also in U.S. input-output tables) because, as discussed earlier, most of the emissions due to vehicles come from a separate good that is complementary, refined petroleum, and later I explore estimates accounting for this complementarity.¹⁰

It may be informative to calculate the CO₂ externality these numbers imply. If each ton of CO₂ emitted creates a social cost of carbon of \$40 (IWG 2016), this comparison involves multiplying by 40/1000. This calculation implies that globally, pork products create a social cost from CO₂ emissions of about 1.5 percent of product value (=0.34*40/1000). Producing iron and steel creates a CO₂ externality equal to 7 percent of its product value (=1.74*40/1000).

Although Table 1 just lists ten outlier industries, its patterns preview the more general finding that cleaner industries face more restrictive trade policy than dirty industries do. Column (2) shows that the cleanest industries face over four times the mean tariff of the dirtiest industries, at 9 versus 2 percent. Column (3) shows a similar difference between the cleanest and dirtiest industries for NTBs (25 versus 5 percent). I now turn to regressions analyzing all industries.

¹⁰Some developing countries directly subsidize the consumption of raw fossil fuels; trade policy also to some extent reflects these patterns. For global trade in fossil fuel industries (coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refined petroleum), average global tariffs are 1.7 percent and NTBs are 3.6 percent; for all other industries, these averages are 3.9 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively. In developing countries, mean tariff and NTB rates for fossil fuels are 5.8 percent and 6.7 percent, and for all other industries they are 7.5 percent and 9.0 percent. These values are weighted and include all industries (not only manufacturing).

4.2 Implicit Carbon Tariffs

Tariffs

Figure 1, Panels A and B, plots hypothetical \$40/ton carbon tariffs. These are not actual data, but instead depict a proposed policy. Each point in these graphs is a separate country \times industry (Panel A, all countries) or industry (Panel B, U.S. only). The tariff rate is a constant multiple of the emissions rate, which makes both graphs linear. In this hypothetical policy, the mean carbon tariff for all countries in Panel B is three percent, which is slightly over half of current global mean tariff rates. The mean U.S. carbon tariff is about four percent, which is larger than prevailing mean U.S. tariffs (Table 2).

Figure 1, Panels C and D, shows actual tariff data. In these graphs, the pattern across industries is the opposite of hypothetical carbon tariffs. The hypothetical carbon tariffs in Panels A and B impose higher tariffs on dirtier industries (positively sloped line), but actual tariffs in Panels C and D impose lower tariffs on dirtier industries (negatively sloped line).

Table 2 reports regressions corresponding to these graphs. Panels A and B show estimates for the world and U.S., respectively. Even-numbered columns are weighted by the value of the trade flow; odd-numbered columns are not weighted. For the U.S., weighting provides an efficient response to heteroskedasticity, since U.S. effective tariff rates equal total duties divided by total trade value. Columns (1) and (2) show a first-stage regression of total CO₂ intensity on direct CO₂ intensity, corresponding to equation (2). Columns (3) and (4) show reduced-form regressions of tariffs on direct CO₂ intensity. Column (5) and (6) show OLS regressions of tariffs on total CO₂ intensity. Columns (7) and (8) report instrumental variables regressions of tariffs on total CO₂ intensity, instrumented by direct CO₂ intensity.

In Table 2, Panel A, the negative signs in columns (3) through (8) imply that global tariffs have an implicit subsidy to CO₂ emissions, not a tax. Columns (7) and (8) show that the mean subsidy to CO₂ emissions in global tariffs is \$11 per ton of CO₂ weighted, or \$32/ton unweighted. The first-stage F-statistics show that most of the instruments are strong, though the unweighted U.S. estimates have marginally weak instruments (F-statistic of 9.8, versus a standard cutoff of 10), and hence are possibly biased towards OLS. The instrumental variables estimates are modestly larger than the corresponding OLS estimates, which is consistent with attenuation bias in OLS due to measurement error, though their qualitative results are similar.

In some settings, using instrumental variables that completely and certainly satisfy the exclusion restriction is central to a paper's arguments. This is not the case here, and my interpretation is that the U.S. instrument is more likely to satisfy the exclusion restriction than the global instrument is. In part the instruments are not critical here because they are solely designed to address measurement error, which is a possible but not a central concern in input-output data. Little if any prior research constructs instruments for an input-output table exclusively out of concern for measurement error. Moreover, in either the global or U.S. analysis, the qualitative conclusions from OLS are similar to those of IV estimates. The main conclusion from this analysis is that measurement error, if anything, means that the true global subsidies could even be somewhat larger in absolute value than the large subsidies I estimate.

Figure 2 shows the estimated association between CO₂ intensity and tariffs for the U.S., separately for each year of available data 1989-2017. The red circle shows the point estimate for each year and the vertical bar shows the 95 percent confidence interval. This graph shows statistically significant negative associations between U.S. tariffs and CO₂ intensity in every year. The estimated U.S. implicit subsidy was \$13/ton in 1989, then decreased gradually to \$6/ton around 1998, and remained near that value through 2017. As Section 5 discusses, the WTO's effort to decrease tariff escalation in the Uruguay Round in the 1990s is one possible explanation for this trend.

Non-Tariff Barriers

Figure 1, Panels E and F, plots NTBs against CO₂ emission rates. These graphs have similar structure to the tariff graphs. They show that dirtier industries face lower NTBs in both the global and U.S. data. Some of the cleanest industries have NTB ad valorem equivalent values close to 100 percent, while many of the dirtiest industries face little or no NTB protection.

Table 3 reports regressions corresponding to these graphs. The table structure is similar to the tariff regressions in Table 2. Again the numbers in columns (3) through (8) are all negative, showing a carbon subsidy in trade policy rather than carbon tax. Columns (7) and (8) show that the implicit subsidy to CO₂ in global NTBs is \$76 in the unweighted regressions or \$90 in the weighted regressions. The instrumental variables estimates in columns (7) and (8) show a large subsidy to CO₂ emissions implicit in U.S. NTBs, of about \$37 to \$48/ton. Summing up subsidies in tariffs from Tables 2 and NTBs from Table 3, columns (7) and (8), gives the global subsidy that I emphasize of about \$85 (weighted) to \$120 (unweighted).

These implicit subsidies appear in both tariffs and NTBs but have larger magnitude in absolute value in NTBs, perhaps in part since NTB mean values are greater. The mean U.S. ad valorem equivalent of NTBs is 8 to 11 percent, which is over four times the mean tariff rate (Tables 2 and 3). This supports the common claim that U.S. NTBs are more restrictive than U.S. tariffs. Globally, NTBs create a larger barrier to trade than tariffs do, at 9 to 13 percent (NTBs) versus 3 to 5 percent (tariffs).

Implicit Subsidies, by Country

To investigate how these patterns vary by country, I sum together tariffs and the ad valorem equivalent of NTBs as a more complete measure of protection. I then estimate equation (1) separately for each country (hence, these regressions exclude country fixed effects).

Figure 3 plots the result. Each point in this graph describes an estimate of the implicit carbon subsidy for one country. Each point represents the subsidy to global emissions implicit in the trade policy of one country. The point for each country is estimated separately.¹¹ Points on the graph are ordered by the

¹¹Stacking the regression to account for the covariance structure across countries might increase efficiency in these estimates. Most of the estimates are significantly different from zero, though not significantly different from each other. I view the most striking feature of Figure 3 as the fact that even with completely separate regressions for each country, most of the country-specific subsidies are negative and large in absolute value; stacking the regression makes the estimates no longer independent

estimated implicit subsidy, with names shown for several countries of interest.

Almost every country in Figure 3 has a negative value, implying that most countries have a carbon subsidy rather than a carbon tariff implicit in trade policy. European countries like France, Germany, Norway, and the UK have among the largest such subsidies, with subsidy values exceeding \$175/ton. Russia, India, and China have smaller subsidies. The y-axis of Figure 3 shows each country’s covariance between the trade policy an industry faces and the CO₂ the industry emits. Hence, a country like China which has high emissions due to its reliance on coal can still nonetheless have a small value in Figure 3 since its trade policies are not strongly correlated with industries’ CO₂ emissions. Figure 4 plots these data in a global map which classifies countries by their implicit subsidies.

The cross-country comparisons in Figures 3 and 4 do not follow easily predictable patterns. Large subsidies appear in both rich regions like the EU and poor regions like Africa; small subsidies also appear in both rich countries like Canada and poorer countries like Vietnam. Oil-intensive countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran have small subsidies, while countries with strict environmental policies like Norway have large subsidies. This lack of systematic patterns is consistent with the interpretation, developed in Section 5, that these subsidies are not driven by environmental concern, but instead are due to political economy forces which are correlated with CO₂ intensity.¹²

Sensitivity Analyses and Extensions

Online Appendix B discusses numerous alternative estimates of these implicit carbon tariffs that are shown in Appendix Table 1, including from a tobit, alternative approaches to inference, nonlinear specifications of CO₂ intensity, winsorizing the data, including non-manufactured goods, including intra-national trade, separating direct and indirect emissions, including all greenhouse gases, separately accounting for CO₂ emissions from consumption and not merely production (e.g., the gasoline used to power a vehicle), the reverse regression, using WIOD, excluding manufactured agricultural and food products, and specifically analyzing the recent trade war by focusing on recent changes in U.S. import tariffs. Most of these results are qualitatively similar to the main estimates, though some vary in their magnitudes.

I also separately analyze subsidies to CO₂ implicit in cooperative versus non-cooperative tariffs. Some non-members of the World Trade Organization face higher tariffs not negotiated cooperatively. The tariff data report non-cooperative tariffs for three importers—the U.S., Japan, and China. The U.S. calls these “Column 2” tariffs; China and Japan call them “general rate” tariffs (see Online Appendix A.4).

Appendix Table 2 shows evidence of implicit carbon subsidies in both cooperative and non-cooperative

across countries.

¹²In unreported results, I took the estimated country-level subsidy to CO₂ in trade policy plotted in Figures 3 and 4, and regressed it on several country characteristics. This regression finds that a country’s GDP per capita, its mean tariff rate, and its quality of environmental management are all significantly associated with larger subsidies (more negative regression coefficients). The regression also controlled for mean NTB rates, mean CO₂ emissions rates, an index of perceived country corruption, and the country’s mean upstreamness; these other variables had marginally significant (upstreamness) or no (other controls) association with the level of a country’s implicit subsidy. I do not show this cross-country, cross-sectional regression, which has 7 explanatory variables and less than 50 observations, since it may be hard to interpret economically; I mention it because it provides another way to summarize the data in Figures 3 and 4.

tariffs. This suggests that whatever political economy force creates these implicit subsidies must operate for both cooperative and non-cooperative policy. The U.S. has a CO₂ subsidy of \$4.50 to \$6/ton in cooperative tariffs and a subsidy of \$60 to \$80/ton in non-cooperative tariffs. Consistent with Figure 3, China does not have a clear implicit subsidy in most of its tariffs. Japanese tariff rates are similar across the two types of tariffs, and correspondingly, the estimated implicit CO₂ subsidy in Japan is generally similar for non-cooperative and cooperative tariffs.

5 Explanations for the Relationship Between Trade Policy and Pollution

Why do countries impose higher tariffs and NTBs on clean than on dirty goods? Answering this question is not needed to show that this pattern of trade policy exists or to analyze the consequences of changing it, but I investigate this question for a few reasons. The existence of these subsidies is surprising, so the question of why they exist is interesting. Additionally, because no prior research has tested for or demonstrated the existence of these subsidies, explaining why they exist enhances their plausibility. Finally, understanding why these patterns of trade policy occur may provide insight into the political feasibility of changing them.

To investigate reasons for the relationship between trade policy and pollution, I use three approaches: linear regressions; nonparametric regressions of trade policy on upstreamness and CO₂ intensity; and a qualitative discussion of several trade policy and public finance theories.

5.1 Explanations: Omitted Variables

Which are the most important omitted variables in regressions of trade policy on CO₂ intensity? Appendix Table 3 shows that an industry's upstream location is likely to play an important role. The table shows the difference in each political economy variable between "dirty" and "clean" industries (i.e., those above and below the median CO₂ intensity), separately for global and U.S. data. All political economy variables are expressed in z-scores (i.e., I subtract the mean and divide by the standard deviation). Relative to clean industries, dirty industries are significantly more upstream, have a lower labor share, lower wages, higher unionization rates, higher shipping costs, and higher local pollution emissions; the global data give conflicting patterns for intra-industry trade and the import penetration ratio. While dirty industries anecdotally have outsize political influence, dirty industries make marginally lower PAC contributions, though PAC contributions are believed to be a very imperfect measure of lobbying influence.

Appendix Table 3 shows that the association between emissions and upstreamness is stronger than the association between emissions and other political economy variables, in U.S. and global data. All variables are in z-scores so have the same units. In the global data, some of the other variables are correlated with dirtiness, but the correlations are weaker than for upstreamness. The association between emissions and upstreamness in the global data is over four times stronger than the association between emissions and

other political economy variables. Additionally, the regressions below imply that these other variables have less strong direct relationships to trade policy than upstreamness.

Table 4 asks which political economy explanation is the most important omitted variable in regressions of trade policy on CO₂ intensity. It shows regressions of trade protection (tariffs+NTBs) on total CO₂ intensity while controlling for one political economy variable at a time, with specification corresponding to equation (3). Total CO₂ intensity is instrumented with direct CO₂ intensity. Panels A and B show estimates for all global trade; Panel C shows U.S. estimates. Column (1) includes no controls. Columns (2) through (6) each control for one political economy variable, observed at the level of a country×industry. Column (2) controls for upstreamness, column (3) for intra-industry trade, column (4) for the import penetration ratio, column (5) for the labor share, and column (6) for the mean wage.

Table 4, Panel B, uses data from the ten smallest other countries to construct instrumental variables for the focal country×industry. These help address the possibility that some political economy explanations are endogenous. One example would be if trade policy affects wages in a given industry and country but not in the same industry in other countries. Analyses of agglomeration and import competition similarly use somewhat similar instruments (Ellison et al. 2010; Autor et al. 2013; Antràs et al. 2017).

Table 4, Panel A, column (1) restates the earlier result that the total subsidy to global CO₂ emissions implicit in global trade policy is around \$120/ton. Column (2) shows that controlling for upstreamness attenuates this estimate to \$33/ton. Columns (3) through (6) show that controlling for other political economy variables one at a time only slightly changes the estimated implicit subsidy.

Table 4, Panel B, obtains similar estimates from instrumenting each political economy variable with its mean in the ten smallest other countries. In column (2), controlling for upstreamness eliminates the estimated implicit subsidy—the estimated association between CO₂ emissions and trade policy is -\$120 (34) with no political economy controls, but \$34 (39) when controlling for upstreamness. Columns (3) through (6) show that instrumenting does not substantially change the other estimates. These estimates have strong instruments.

Panel C finds similar patterns using U.S. data. The estimated U.S. subsidy from tariffs and NTBs is \$50 (10) per ton. Controlling for upstreamness attenuates this estimate, to \$3 (10) per ton. Other political economy controls do not substantially change the estimated subsidy.

Figure 5 graphs the U.S. estimates from Table 4, along with estimates controlling for other political economy variables that are available for the U.S. but not all countries. Each blue circle in these graphs is the coefficient from a regression of tariffs+NTBs on total CO₂ intensity (instrumented by direct CO₂ intensity), controlling for one political economy variable, and corresponding to equation (3). Each red horizontal line shows a 95% confidence interval. The “Main Estimates” restates results from Table 4, Panel C, column (1). Each of the other numbers controls for one additional variable. The “Firm size: mean” entry, for example, comes from a regression that controls for the mean firm size in each industry.

Figure 5 shows that controlling for most political economy variables one-by-one produces little change in the association of trade policy with CO₂ intensity. Only one political economy explanation, upstream-

ness, eliminates the estimated implicit subsidy, and renders it statistically indistinguishable from zero.¹³

Appendix Table 4 shows sensitivity analyses. Panels A, B, and C show that weighted regressions are qualitatively similar to the unweighted versions. Controlling for upstreamness attenuates the global estimated subsidy from -\$82 to \$6. The instruments are strong for upstreamness and the labor share. The weighted estimates have weaker instruments for the other explanations, which may bias these estimates towards the OLS values. One might wonder whether the correlation between total CO₂ and upstreamness reflects measurement error in the input-output table, since both upstreamness and total CO₂ emissions are measured from the input-output table. U.S. direct CO₂ emissions are not subject to this concern, since they are measured from completely distinct data (MECS) and not from the input-output table. Panels D and E show that OLS estimates using direct CO₂ emissions are similar to IV estimates for total CO₂ emissions. Controlling for upstreamness in column (2) attenuates the correlation between CO₂ emissions and trade protection by more than 90 percent. Again, controlling for the other political economy variables matters much less.

Appendix Table 5 reports regressions controlling for all these political economy explanations at once. Columns (1) through (3) show estimates for all global trade. Columns (4) and (5) show estimates for U.S. imports only. The U.S. has data on more political economy explanations. Columns (1), (2) and (4) use linear instrumental variables regression, while columns (3) and (5) use Lasso with instrumental variables (Belloni et al. 2016). All these regressions instrument total CO₂ intensity with direct CO₂ intensity. To ease interpretation of coefficients for the controls, I have re-scaled all except CO₂ intensity to be z-scores (i.e., subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation). I leave CO₂ intensity in tons/\$ rather than z-scores to facilitate comparison with other tables.

These estimates suggest that other political economy forces, and especially upstreamness, account for an important share of the association between CO₂ intensity and trade policy. These estimates find negative associations between trade policy and CO₂ intensity that are smaller than in estimates without political economy controls. Controls attenuate the association between CO₂ and trade policy to \$-25 to \$-28 and render it statistically insignificant (Appendix Table 5).

All the estimates in Appendix Table 5 identify upstreamness as a strong predictor of trade policy, even conditional on the other political economy variables. Upstreamness is the only explanation for which this is true. Upstreamness also has large magnitude effects on trade policy. In the global data, Lasso retains only the CO₂ rate and upstreamness. In the U.S. data, Lasso retains only three variables in the selected model: CO₂ intensity, upstreamness, and shipping costs.

Figure 5 and Appendix Table 5 suggest that local pollution does not statistically account for the association between CO₂ emissions and trade policy, since controlling for local pollution emissions or damages does not substantially change the coefficient on CO₂ intensity, though does decrease its precision.

¹³This section's comparison of the carbon content of goods against their upstreamness and trade policy has similarities to Blanchard et al. (2016)'s value-added content logic that a country may choose trade policy for a good to reflect the domestic content which is embodied in the value chain for that good. One important difference is that each country may have preference over policy for its own domestic content embodied in traded goods. For CO₂ externalities, however, it does not matter whether the CO₂ embodied in a good was originally emitted from domestic or foreign fossil fuels, since CO₂ has the same effect on global climate regardless of the location of its emission.

Apart from these estimates, a few other reasons suggest why concern for local pollution emissions is unlikely to explain why dirty industries face lower tariffs and NTBs. First, many policymakers actively seek to maintain dirty industries' domestic production and directly regulate local pollution emissions by requiring installation of scrubbers or other technology that abates local air pollution (though not CO₂). Many local governments refer to the use of subsidies to attract manufacturers as “smokestack chasing.” Many environmental policies contain explicit provisions to prevent relocation of dirty production, such as carbon border tax adjustments in U.S. climate bills or free distribution of allowances in proportion to an industry's output in cap-and-trade markets. Hence, relocating dirty industries abroad may not be a primary policy goal. Additionally, I am not aware of any evidence that concern for local pollution emissions has led dirty industries to have lower tariffs or NTBs. Many trade agreements like NAFTA and TPP have side agreements dealing with the environment. These agreements typically describe domestic environmental regulations or monitoring investments, but not patterns of tariffs and NTBs. Many of these actually seek to prevent the relocation of dirty industries, by barring the use of weak domestic environmental policies to lure dirty production across borders. Moreover, this implicit subsidy appears in most countries. Efforts to outsource local pollution would thus to some extent neutralize each other—U.S. trade policies encourage dirty industries to relocate to other countries, but similar trade policies in other countries encourage those industries to relocate back to the U.S.

5.2 Explanations: Empirical Reasons why Upstreamness Substantially Accounts for Subsidies

Why is an industry's upstreamness strongly correlated with its CO₂ intensity? Using U.S. data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Appendix Figure 2 graphs the share of each industry's revenue that is accounted for on the production side by intermediate goods, labor expenditures, profits and taxes, and fossil fuels. Appendix Figure 2 shows that upstream industries use a larger share of fossil fuels than downstream industries do. For the upstream industries, nearly five percent of production costs are devoted to fossil fuels; for the most downstream industries, less than one percent of costs are. Relative to upstream industries, downstream industries spend relatively more on labor and intermediate goods. Previous research has not shown these patterns but they make intuitive sense—upstream industries are taking raw materials extracted from the ground and transforming them, while downstream industries depend more on labor and other inputs.

Appendix Figure 2 also helps answer an important question. If downstream goods are just combinations of upstream goods, why would different import tariff rates on upstream versus downstream goods affect CO₂ emissions? Imagine an economy in which upstream goods were made exclusively from coal and downstream goods were made from upstream goods. In this hypothetical economy, upstream and downstream goods would have the same CO₂ intensity, and tariff escalation could not affect global CO₂ emissions. Appendix Figure 2 shows that this hypothetical economy is misleading because downstream industries use as inputs both upstream goods and relatively clean factors like labor. Hence, imposing high

tariffs on downstream but not upstream goods can encourage consumers to substitute from demanding relatively clean factors like labor to demanding relatively dirty factors like energy.

Buyers can respond to changes in trade policy in many ways, including substituting between goods, changing total demand for an industry’s products, and changing trading partners. To what extent can firms and consumers substitute between industries with different levels of upstreamness? Certainly in examples, goods that are substitutes have different levels of upstreamness and CO₂ intensity. For example, steel and aluminum are likely substitutes, and in the U.S. data which have greater industry detail, steel is both more upstream and more CO₂ intensive than aluminum. To give another example, containers can be made of metal or wood; the metal container industry is both more upstream and more CO₂ intensive in U.S. data than the wood container industry.¹⁴ More broadly, consumers can substitute between goods in a wide array of patterns; one goal of the quantitative model in Section 6 is to analyze some of these patterns numerically.

Figure 6 shows nonparametric local linear regressions. Each graph in this figure shows two lines. The downward-sloping dashed blue line shows a nonparametric regression of total CO₂ intensity on upstreamness. This line shows that the most upstream industries are dirtier. The upward-sloping solid red line shows a local linear regression of tariffs on upstreamness, which shows that the most upstream industries have the lowest tariffs. The patterns are similar for global and U.S. data, and for tariffs and NTBs. As mentioned earlier, previous research has not documented this systematic nonparametric relationship between trade policy and upstreamness. In these graphs, the relationships between each of these outcomes (CO₂ intensity, tariffs) and upstreamness are somewhat linear.

Appendix Figure 3 finds similar patterns in most countries. This figure plots nonparametric relationships between CO₂ intensity and upstreamness, and between trade policy (tariffs+NTBs) and upstreamness, separately for each country in Exiobase. While this figure provides almost 50 separate small graphs, causal inspection shows the “X”-shaped pattern that in most countries, CO₂ intensity increases somewhat steadily with upstreamness, while tariffs and NTBs decrease.

Online Appendix C informally discusses how theories of trade policy might rationalize these findings. While a range of theories seek to explain cooperative and non-cooperative trade policy, political economy forces like lobbying for low protection on upstream goods may play a role on most of these frameworks. That Appendix also describes a few reasons why the [Diamond and Mirrlees \(1971\)](#) production efficiency theorem doesn’t well account for these patterns of trade policy.

¹⁴The first example compares iron and steel mills (NAICS industry 331111) against aluminum sheet, plate, and foil manufacturing (NAICS industry 331315). The second example compares other metal container manufacturing (NAICS industry 332439) against wood container and pallet manufacturing (NAICS industry 321920).

6 Consequences of Implicit CO₂ Subsidies

6.1 Partial Equilibrium Approximation

I use a few approaches to investigate the aggregate consequences of these patterns of trade policy. The first is a partial equilibrium calculation:

$$\sum_s \hat{\alpha} X_{js} E_{js} \quad (4)$$

This represents the revenue that a carbon tariff would collect if it had the same pattern as trade policy’s environmental bias (i.e., -\$85 to -\$120/ton). The parameter $\hat{\alpha}$ is the implicit carbon subsidy from equation (1).

My primary estimate of Equation (4) uses regression results from Tables 2 and 3, columns (7) and (8). This implies that global trade policy provided an implicit subsidy of \$550 to \$800 billion in the year 2007 (measured in 2016 dollars). This can be calculated simply: 6.5 billion tons of CO₂ are embodied in international trade (including in intermediate goods), times \$85 to \$120 in subsidy per ton of CO₂ traded, gives $\$550 \approx 6.5 \times 85$ or $\$800 \approx 6.5 \times 125$.¹⁵ Appendix Table 1 provides a range of other estimates of the implicit subsidy α , and these other regression estimates in turn lead to other estimates of the total global subsidy. While the exact subsidy can vary with the exact regression specification, these large magnitudes suggest this subsidy may have quantitatively important effects on trade and CO₂ emissions.

To put these estimates in perspective, global direct subsidies to fossil fuels were about \$530 billion in 2007 (IMF 2013). These direct subsidies are a focus of political debate. The CO₂ subsidies in trade policy, which have not been previously highlighted, have a similar magnitude. Of course, a direct subsidy to fossil fuel could have larger effects on CO₂ than an indirect subsidy through trade policy.

6.2 Analytical Model

The calculation of the previous subsection does not allow prices or quantities to change. I now turn to a two-country, two-industry model that provides a simple way to think about the effects of trade policy on CO₂ emissions. This model focuses on key forces while prioritizing simplicity that provides analytical results. I primarily describe an Armington model, in which countries have a taste for variety, and each country produces one variety per sector. Online Appendix D describes a more abstract analytical model with fewer functional form assumptions, no national product differentiation, and a different (perturbation) approach to studying counterfactuals. As I describe below, that model provides similar conclusions for unilateral trade policy and some additional insight on the intuition and mechanisms. I show the Armington model here since it can more readily accommodate counterfactuals where all countries increase protection on dirty goods and since it is more similar to the quantitative model used in the next subsection.

¹⁵In many regression settings, difference-in-difference analyses cannot measure the total effect of a policy, since such regressions are normalized against a comparison group and have fixed effects that remove any economy-wide effects. My summary calculations reflect a descriptive regression that is not differences-in-differences—the regression has no comparison group, and is not estimating a causal effect. Hence, this partial equilibrium calculation assumes that goods with zero tariff have zero subsidy.

Both the Armington and Appendix models encompasses several potentially important features: pollution can directly affect utility; pollution creates transboundary damages; baseline policy may be sub-optimal; and large countries may affect world prices.

Preferences. The representative agent in country j maximizes national utility U_j .

$$U_j = \prod_s Q_{js}^{\alpha_{js}} f(Z)$$

Here Q_{js} is a consumption aggregate given by $Q_{js} \equiv (\sum_i q_{ijs}^{(\sigma-1)/\sigma})^{\sigma/(\sigma-1)}$. The elasticity of substitution is $\sigma > 1$. Utility depends on international trade (q_{ijs} , $i \neq j$) and intra-national trade (q_{jjs}) in each sector $s \in (1, 2)$. Global pollution emissions Z create exponential damages, with damage function $f(Z)$. The representative agent treats emissions as a pure externality, so ignores them in choosing expenditure. Sector 1 represents dirty goods that emit pollution; sector 2 represents clean goods that do not. Preferences are Cobb-Douglas across sectors, with expenditure shares α_{js} . The associated price index is

$$P_{js} = \left[\sum_i (w_i \tau_{ijs})^{1-\sigma} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}}$$

Equivalently, one can write the trade elasticity $\epsilon < 0$ as equal to $\epsilon \equiv 1 - \sigma$. Then ϵ can be interpreted as the elasticity of trade flows with respect to trade costs. I assume for simplicity (and without loss of generality) it is constant across sectors. Goods face iceberg trade costs, so $\tau_{ijs} \geq 1$ goods must be shipped for one to arrive. Intra-national trade costs are normalized to one, so $\tau_{jjs} = 1$.

Technology. Output is produced one-for-one from a single factor (“labor”), which is inelastically supplied at price w_i . National income is $Y_i = w_i L_i$.

Pollution. Country j ’s pollution emissions Z_j come from dirty goods:

$$Z_j = \sum_i \frac{X_{ij1}}{P_{j1}} \quad (5)$$

Global pollution emissions are $Z = Z_1 + Z_2$, and X_{ijs} is total expenditure on goods produced in origin country i , shipped to destination country j , in sector s .

Equilibrium. Trade is balanced, so each country’s revenues equal its expenditures: $\sum_{i,s} X_{ijs} = \sum_{i,s} X_{jis}$. Consumer utility maximization implies that international trade flows have the following “gravity” structure:

$$\begin{aligned} X_{ijs} &= \left(\frac{w_i \tau_{ijs}}{P_{js}} \right)^\epsilon E_{js} \\ &= \lambda_{ijs} E_{js} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where $\lambda_{ijs} \equiv (w_i \tau_{ijs} / P_{js})^\epsilon = X_{ijs} / X_{js}$ denotes the share of country j ’s expenditure on sector s varieties which is sourced from country i , and $X_{js} = \sum_i X_{ijs}$ is total expenditure on sector s goods in country j .

Counterfactual Methodology To study counterfactuals, I express each variable as a change from baseline levels, sometimes called “exact hat algebra” (Dekle et al. 2008; Costinot and Rodriguez-Clare 2014). Let a denote some variable from the model in the baseline data, and a' denote the value of this variable in a counterfactual world. Define $\hat{a} \equiv a'/a$ as the proportional change in this variable due to counterfactual policy. Variables in changes are as follows:

$$\hat{\lambda}_{ijs} = \left(\frac{\hat{w}_i \hat{\tau}_{ijs}}{\hat{P}_{js}} \right)^\epsilon \quad (7)$$

$$\hat{P}_{js} = \left[\sum_i \lambda_{ijs} (\hat{w}_i \hat{\tau}_{ijs})^\epsilon \right]^{1/\epsilon} \quad (8)$$

Counterfactual Results. Consider a proportional increase in trade costs for dirty (sector 1) goods, given by $\hat{\tau}_{121}, \hat{\tau}_{211} \geq 1$. Substituting the equations for trade flows (6), expenditure shares in changes (7), and the price index in changes (8) into the pollution equation (5) for counterfactual Z' and simplifying gives the following description of counterfactual global emissions:

$$Z' = [\lambda_{111} + (\hat{w}_2 \hat{\tau}_{211})^\epsilon \lambda_{211}]^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} Z_1 + [(\lambda_{121} (\hat{\tau}_{121})^\epsilon + (\hat{w}_2)^\epsilon \lambda_{221})^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} \hat{w}_2 Z_2 \quad (9)$$

Here the first bracketed term represents the change in country 1’s emissions (\hat{Z}_1) due to the counterfactual, and the second bracketed term is the change in country 2’s emissions (\hat{Z}_2) due to the counterfactual.

In equation (9), a unilateral or multilateral increase in tariffs for dirty goods produces an ambiguous change in global emissions. The ambiguity occurs because while increasing trade costs for dirty goods can decrease global emissions directly, the resulting adjustment of factor prices can decrease global emissions, since the factor price adjustment can make dirty production more competitive. Whether the trade cost increase results in a global increase or decrease in emissions depends on baseline values of trade flows, on the trade elasticity, and on baseline emissions in each sector; this is an empirical question I address quantitatively in the next subsection.

Two special cases provide clearer results. First, abstract from general equilibrium effects, so $\hat{w}_1 = \hat{w}_2 = 1$. This is not a competitive equilibrium. Then equation (9) simplifies to

$$Z' = [\lambda_{111} + (\hat{\tau}_{211})^\epsilon \lambda_{211}]^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} Z_1 + [(\lambda_{121} (\hat{\tau}_{121})^\epsilon + \lambda_{221})^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} Z_2 \quad (10)$$

Because a country’s expenditure shares sum to one, because this counterfactual assumes proportional changes in trade costs weakly exceed one, and because demand slopes down ($\epsilon < 0$), equation (10) shows that increasing trade costs for dirty goods decreases global emissions (i.e., $Z' \leq Z$).

Mechanically, this occurs since rising trade costs increase the price index for dirty goods, which decreases their real output, and therefore decreases pollution emissions. Intuitively, Cobb-Douglas preferences imply that nominal spending on dirty goods is fixed. As the cost of trading these goods rises, the world becomes less efficient at supplying them. Thus, given constant nominal expenditure on these

goods, their real value and output decline, and hence pollution emissions decline. The rising trade costs act like a tax on dirty goods which decreases their real output.

Another useful special case is for two symmetric countries, where factor prices are fixed by symmetry and the numeraire. This case gives the following:

$$\hat{Z} = [\lambda_{111} + (\hat{\tau}_2)^\epsilon \lambda_{211}]^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} \quad (11)$$

Again here increasing trade costs for dirty goods decreases global pollution. This effect is larger in settings where the baseline share of dirty goods that is internationally traded is large (i.e., λ_{211} is large), and when demand is especially elastic (i.e., $|\epsilon|$ is large).

A setting with two symmetric countries also allows a simple quantification. Suppose that 20 percent of dirty goods are traded and a policy increases trade costs for these goods by three percent. These reflect the idea that around 20 percent of global greenhouse gases cross international borders embodied in traded goods, and roughly correspond to a \$40 per ton of CO₂ carbon tariff on global trade. Assume a trade elasticity of $\epsilon = -5$ (Eaton and Kortum 2002; Anderson and van Wincoop 2004; Simonovska and Waugh 2014). Applied to equation (11), this gives $\hat{Z}_i = .967$, which implies that increasing trade costs for dirty goods by three percent decreases global emissions by 3.3 percent.

This simple quantification depends on three terms: the share of dirty goods that is traded (λ_{211}), the trade elasticity (ϵ), and the hypothetical policy ($\hat{\tau}_{211}$). The conclusions are modestly more sensitive to the baseline trade share than to the other parameters. This is arguably good for robustness since trade and emissions are directly reported by statistical agencies, whereas the trade elasticity must be estimated and can take a wide range of values, especially when it varies by sector (e.g., Broda and Weinstein 2006; Caliendo and Parro 2015; Shapiro 2016). For example, doubling the trade elasticity to -10 would make this hypothetical policy decrease global emissions by 5.6 percent. Doubling the stringency of the hypothetical policy to $\hat{\tau} = 1.06$ would make this change decrease global emissions by 6.0 percent. Doubling the baseline expenditure share of dirty goods to $\lambda_{211} = 0.4$ would make this hypothetical policy decrease emissions by 6.6 percent. Doubling all three of these parameters (so $\epsilon = -10$, $\lambda_{211} = 0.4$, and $\hat{\tau}_{211} = 1.06$) would decrease global emissions by 19.2 percent.

This model assumes both sectors are traded. It is straightforward to verify that adding a third, non-tradable sector provides the same results, though would lead to different magnitude changes in wages \hat{w}_2 in the counterfactual equation (9). Of course, definitions of certain aggregates for the non-tradable sector exclude traded goods; for example the aggregate quantity in utility for this sector is simply $Q_{js} \equiv q_{jjs}$, and the price index for this sector is simply $P_{js} = w_i$.

Analytical Results from a More General Model

Online Appendix D describes a more abstract model then perturbs it to study the effects of small changes in trade costs for dirty industries. That model draws on ideas in existing work (Markusen 1975; Copeland 1994; Kortum and Weisbach 2019)

That more abstract model gives similar patterns as the Armington model above, but some additional insights. In general, unilateral increases in trade costs for dirty goods still produce ambiguous-signed effects on global emissions. That model makes the source of ambiguity more explicit—domestic emissions increase for the country importing the dirty goods, but emissions in the rest of the world may decrease since the world price of those goods falls. This pattern only occurs for a large importer with market power for dirty goods.

The Appendix C model shows several forces which make increases in a large country’s import tariffs decrease global emissions more (or increase them less). First, this occurs when a country has more market power and increasing tariffs on imports of dirty goods causes a relatively large decrease in world prices. Second, this occurs when foreign production is especially dirty. This is relevant since many countries outsource production of dirty goods to trading partners that are coal-intensive, such as China, and since trade requires emissions for international transportation, which is pollution-intensive. Third, this occurs in settings with higher baseline tariffs on dirty goods. Finally, this occurs in settings where foreign production technology is especially concave. This concavity captures the extent to which decreasing the relative price of dirty goods makes the economy substitute from dirty to clean production.

For a small open economy, the optimal tariff is zero, since tariffs provide no terms-of-trade gain, they increase domestic emissions, and they do not change foreign emissions. For a large economy, the optimal tariff equals the inverse elasticity of export supply plus the product of two terms: the tariff’s effect on global emissions, and the damages from global emissions. Increasing tariffs from below this optimum increases national welfare, but increasing tariffs beyond that value decreases national welfare.

6.3 Quantitative Model

I now turn to quantify effects of these counterfactuals in a richer model. Some predictions in the previous subsection had ambiguous signs; other predictions had clear signs but ambiguous magnitudes. The quantitative model I use here is still highly stylized, but incorporates some additional features—many countries; many industries; a non-tradable sector; input-output links; trade imbalances; a distinction between fossil fuel industries and others; a distinction between iceberg trade costs, non-tariff barriers, and tariffs; and others. Because the model is similar to the “structural gravity” literature in trade and to the simpler model of the previous subsection, I describe the model’s formal assumptions and counterfactual methodology in Online Appendix E.

I primarily apply the model using data from Exiobase, though also show results using WIOD. For computation, I aggregate the data to 10 regions and 21 industries, shown in Appendix Tables 6 and 7. I assume intra-regional tariffs are zero. Three regions comprise the EU: Western, Southern, and Northern Europe.

I use sector-specific trade elasticities from aggregating studies that estimate these parameters: [Caliendo and Parro \(2015\)](#), [Shapiro \(2016\)](#), [Bagwell et al. \(2018\)](#), and [Giri et al. \(2018\)](#). Within a study, I aggregate multiple estimates for a sector using inverse variance weighting, which minimizes variance ([Hartung](#)

et al. 2008).¹⁶ I calibrate the damages from CO₂ emissions so that a one-ton increase in CO₂ emissions decreases global welfare by \$40, which corresponds with prevailing estimates of the social costs of CO₂ emissions in 2007 (IWG 2016).

Choice of Counterfactuals

I use this model to analyze six specific counterfactual policies. The first counterfactual changes each country’s bilateral import tariffs to the country’s weighted mean baseline bilateral tariff, and similarly for NTBs, with weights equal to baseline trade: $t'_{ijs} = \sum_s t_{ijs} X_{ijs} / \sum_s X_{ijs} \forall i \neq j$. Here t_{ijs} denotes the baseline tariff rate on goods from origin country i to destination country j and sector s , X_{ijs} denotes the baseline value of bilateral trade, and t'_{ijs} denotes the counterfactual tariff. The counterfactual makes a similar change for NTBs. Policies resembling this counterfactual could result from WTO multilateral negotiations focused on eliminating tariff escalation or from environmentalists lobbying for tariff harmonization between clean and dirty industries. In regions like the EU which already have a climate change policy, politicians could argue that this kind of reform decreases leakage. Such policies might even attract support from dirty industries.

In the second counterfactual, only the EU imposes this policy change: $t'_{ijs} = \sum_s t_{ijs} X_{ijs} / \sum_s X_{ijs} \forall i \neq j; j \in EU; t'_{ijs} = t_{ijs} \forall j \notin EU$. Harmonizing EU trade policy between clean and dirty industries may be somewhat politically feasible since the EU has a domestic climate change policy, is concerned about leakage, and supports strong environmental policies.

The third and fourth counterfactuals compare the consequences of changing tariffs and NTBs to the levels of clean versus dirty industries. Specifically, for each country separately, the third counterfactual sets all tariffs equal to the mean tariff for the cleanest third of industries, and the mean NTB equal to the mean NTB for the cleanest third of industries. The fourth counterfactual undertakes the same exercise, but for the dirtiest third of industries.

In the fifth counterfactual, all countries add a carbon tariff to existing policy: $t'_{ijs} = T_{ijs} + E_{ijs}d$. Here, E_{ijs} is the emission rate and d is damages chosen to reflect the global externality from CO₂ emissions (\$40/ton). In the sixth counterfactual, all countries set tariffs and NTBs to zero: $t'_{ijs} = 0 \forall i, j, s$.

Decomposition Methodology

One important question is what channels account for any change in CO₂ emissions. I follow the environmental economics literature in decomposing the change in CO₂ emissions due to a counterfactual into three terms: the change in real output (“scale”), the change in the share of global output from each industry (“composition”), and the emissions intensity of each industry (“technique”) (Grossman and Krueger 1993; Copeland and Taylor 2003; Levinson 2009; Shapiro and Walker 2018).

¹⁶I take the median estimate across studies since confidence intervals for Giri et al. (2018) are small enough relative to the other papers that inverse variance weighting across studies implicitly puts disproportionately high weight on that study. Bartelme et al. (2018) take the median estimates across these studies to estimate trade elasticities.

One can interpret this decomposition from perturbing global emissions. Write global pollution Z as the product of total global output X , the share κ of global output that comes from each industry, and the emissions e per unit output for each industry: $Z = X\kappa'e$. Totally differentiating gives $dZ = dX/X + d\kappa/\kappa + de/e$. The first term on the right-hand side here is the scale effect, the second term is the composition effect, and the third is the technique effect. While this model has no technical change, this is a global decomposition of country×industry data, so the technique effect in part reflects reallocation of production within an industry across countries with different technologies.

I implement this decomposition as follows. I measure composition as the baseline CO₂ intensity of each industry, weighted by the change in the industry's share of global output:

$$\text{Composition Effect} = \sum_s \left[\frac{\sum_i Z_{is}}{\sum_i R_{is}} \cdot \frac{\sum_i \hat{R}_{is} R_{is} (\hat{P}_{is})^{-1}}{\sum_{i,s} \hat{R}_{is} R_{is} (\hat{P}_{is})^{-1}} \right] \frac{\sum_{i,s} R_{is}}{\sum_{is} Z_{is}} - 1$$

Here R_{is} , Z_{is} , and P_{is} represent a country×industry's revenue, pollution emissions, and price index, respectively. The first ratio in this expression is the baseline global emissions intensity of industry s . The second ratio is the change in the real global output of this industry, divided by the change in global output of all industries. I multiply these and sum over industries, which provides the change in emissions intensity that would have occurred with observed changes in composition (second ratio) valued at baseline emissions intensities (first ratio). The third ratio is the inverse of the global baseline emissions intensity, so that the composition effect represents a percentage change relative to baseline intensity. I measure the scale effect as the change in real global output:

$$\text{Scale Effect} = \frac{\sum_{i,s} \hat{R}_{is} R_{is} (\hat{P}_{is})^{-1}}{\sum_{i,s} R_{is}} - 1$$

I measure the technique effect as a residual, equal to the counterfactual change in emissions, minus the scale effect and minus the composition effect:

$$\text{Technique Effect} = \frac{\sum_{i,s} Z'_{is}}{\sum_{i,s} Z_{is}} - 1 - \text{Scale Effect} - \text{Composition Effect}$$

It is not straightforward to assess the extent to which certain endogenous changes in the model, such as reallocation of production and transportation, account for the full effect of any counterfactual. I can, however, provide indirect evidence on the importance of transportation. Most energy used in transportation comes from petroleum, and most petroleum is used for transportation. Coal is disproportionately used for the heaviest industries, like electricity generation, cement manufacturing, and steel blast furnaces, while natural gas is used for other purposes. Hence, examining the change in emissions from each fossil fuel provides some insight as to the importance of these channels.

Counterfactuals: Results for Main Counterfactual of Interest

Appendix Table 8, row 1 analyzes the first counterfactual, in which each country sets the same tariffs and NTBs on clean and dirty industries. Column (1) shows the percentage change in global CO₂ emissions. Column (2) shows the percentage change in global real income, defined as the weighted sum of country-specific changes in real income, where the weights are each country's baseline real income. Column (3) shows the change in CO₂ minus the change in real income (equal to column (1) minus column (2)). This provides one idea of what might occur if trade policy was scaled so global real income did not change. Column (4) shows the change in social welfare due to climate damages. Column (5) shows the change in social welfare due to both the gains from trade and climate damages. Differences in trade elasticities across industries and trade value across countries mean these counterfactuals can change trade's volume and benefits even if they don't change mean tariffs or NTBs.

I find that this counterfactual of harmonizing trade policy between clean and dirty industries would decrease global CO₂ emissions by about 1.5 percentage points but increase global real income by 1 percentage point (Appendix Table 8, row 1). This counterfactual decreases CO₂ intensity by 2.5 percentage points.

Appendix Table 8 shows that the increase in social welfare due to the decreased CO₂ emissions is much smaller than the increase in social welfare due to the increased real income. In general, the gains from trade are orders of magnitude larger than trade's climate change externality (Shapiro 2016). In part, this finding may reflect the fact that prevailing estimates of climate damages assume a quadratic damage function that is parameterized from the historical experience of modest changes in climate, and may poorly reflect the costs of large future climate change. Macroeconomic models accounting for uncertainty, and expert elicitation, suggest that the damages of climate change may be substantially larger (Cai and Lontzek 2019). A large potential cost is the uncertain possibility that the climate could increase by more than 5 or even more than 10 degrees Celsius, which could create catastrophic damages not well measured in prevailing estimates (Weitzman 2009). In part for these reasons, I emphasize the decrease in CO₂ emissions more than the monetization of that decrease.

Appendix Table 8, Row 2, separates these changes by region, though interpreting it requires care. Because CO₂ mixes uniformly in the atmosphere, climate damages are the same regardless of where CO₂ emissions originate. Additionally, this regional allocation identifies where fossil fuels are extracted. Low protection on dirty industries in baseline data, as the EU has (Figure 4), potentially accelerates fossil fuel production and consumption in other regions like China and India but decreases it in the EU. Thus, changing prevailing patterns of trade policy may increase emissions in Europe and decrease them elsewhere. While one could describe this as a European policy to slow climate change, it may increase CO₂ emissions from Europe but decrease them elsewhere.

Accordingly, the regional allocation in Appendix Table 8, row 2, shows that this counterfactual causes the largest increases in emissions from Europe. The counterfactual causes the largest decreases in emissions from the Americas and Rest of the World. This counterfactual modestly increases real income in all regions; that is not predetermined but is driven by differences in trade flows and elasticities across

regions. Some of the region-specific change are large, though within the range of historical experience.

Row 3 separates these effects into scale, composition, and technique, using the methodology described above. The scale effect shows that this counterfactual increases real output by 0.8 percentage points. The composition effect shows that this counterfactual reallocates production across industries so as to decrease emissions by about 1 percentage point. The technique effect shows that even holding the share of output across industries fixed, the (weighted) mean industry carbon intensity falls by about 1.4 percentage points.

Row 4 reports the change by fossil fuel, which helps interpret the composition effect (since only fossil fuel directly emits CO₂ in this analysis). Coal production, which is primarily used for heavy industry, slightly increases. Oil and gas production each decrease by about 3 percentage points. A majority (though not all) of oil is used for transportation; this suggests that an important channel here for decreasing emissions is that dirtier goods are produced domestically and require less shipping. The decrease in gas suggests that decreased production of goods that rely heavily on gas is another important channel.

The introduction highlighted that using trade policy for environmental goals can produce a range of responses through changing sourcing countries, transportation, and input choices. This quantitative analysis suggests that each of these changes accounts for some of the results in this model—Panel A of Appendix Table 8 shows that this policy increases fossil fuel production from regions that are currently encouraging trade in dirty goods but decreases it in other regions; this policy decreases in emissions from oil (one proxy for the change in emissions from transportation), which accounts for about half the policy’s environmental benefits; and the policy reallocates expenditure across sectors (the composition effect), which also accounts for an important share of the decrease in emissions.

Appendix Table 9 reports sensitivity analyses. I report results using data from WIOD rather than Exiobase; using trade elasticities from [Caliendo and Parro \(2015\)](#), changing only tariffs or only NTBs, removing trade deficits before conducting counterfactuals (as in [Dekle et al. \(2008\)](#)), and using two alternative numerical algorithms. Most of these estimates find broadly similar results to the main estimates. The change in global emissions is about equally from tariffs and NTBs.

Two comparisons suggest these magnitudes are economically important. One is social costs. At a social cost of carbon of \$40 and given emissions in year 2007 of 37 billion tons CO₂ and 49 billion tons of CO₂-equivalent from all greenhouse gases ([Climate Watch 2019](#)), this counterfactual would decrease global climate damages by \$22 to \$29 billion per year.

Another comparison is against other climate change policies. The Waxman-Markey bill, which passed the House but not the Senate in 2009, would have created a U.S. cap-and-trade market for CO₂. The European Union Emissions Trading System (ETS), a large cap-and-trade market for CO₂, is the world’s largest climate change policy (excluding China’s incipient cap-and-trade market). These policies decrease global CO₂ emissions by roughly 2.6 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively.¹⁷ By comparison, I calculate

¹⁷The Waxman-Markey bill would have decreased U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent in the year 2020 relative to 2005 levels. The U.S. accounted for 15 percent of global CO₂ emissions in 2005. Although the Waxman-Markey bill did not pass, U.S. emissions were similar in 2014 as in 2005 ([Climate Watch 2019](#)). Assuming the Waxman-Markey bill would have decreased U.S. emissions by 17 percent, it would have decreased global emissions by 2.6 percent ($=0.15*0.16$). In 2005, the EU emitted

that this trade policy counterfactual would decrease global greenhouse gas emissions by 1.5 percent and decrease CO₂ intensity by 2.5 percent, which is a similar amount or moderately more than the ETS has. These calculations do compare a global trade policy reform against actual unilateral climate change policies, though most climate change policy to date has involved individual countries.

6.4 Other counterfactual policies

Appendix Table 8, Panels B through F, presents the results of other counterfactual analyses. Panel B considers the second counterfactual, in which the EU harmonizes trade policy between clean and dirty goods. The effects of the EU policy resemble those of the global policy from Panel A, but the magnitudes are smaller. This counterfactual EU policy would decrease global CO₂ emissions by 0.7 percentage points while increasing global real income by 0.6 percentage points. Although global emissions fall, most of the increase in emissions is from within the EU, which reflects the idea that the subsidies this paper highlights are global—low baseline EU tariffs and NTBs on dirty goods increases emissions from outside the EU, and hence increasing those tariffs and NTBs tends to increase emissions from inside the EU (though produce larger decreases from outside the EU).

Appendix Table 8, Panels C and D, show the effects of harmonizing trade policy to the levels of clean versus dirty goods. Both counterfactuals decrease global CO₂ emissions, by 2.5 to 3.8 percent. Real income increases slightly in both counterfactuals, so global CO₂ intensity falls by 4 percent. These counterfactuals suggest that harmonizing trade policy between clean and dirty goods can decrease global CO₂ emissions, regardless of whether the counterfactual trade policy is changed to the level that clean or dirty goods initially face.

Appendix Table 8, Panel E, considers a counterfactual in which all countries impose a carbon tariff, i.e., increase existing tariffs by the marginal damage of CO₂ emissions embodied in trade policy and leave NTBs unchanged. This causes a small decrease in global emissions. The effect is small in part because tariffs account for a minority of the global subsidy (NTBs account for the rest).

Appendix Table 8, Panel F, eliminates import tariffs and NTBs. This policy reform increases real income by 2.6 percent, which is large enough to cause an increase in global CO₂ emissions. Here, the scale effect dominates any other effects of this policy on CO₂ emissions.

Why do some counterfactuals increase real income but decrease global CO₂ emissions? This happens because these reforms address two market failures—trade policy and global CO₂ emissions. Eliminating or harmonizing trade policy across goods can increase real income. Because trade policy encourages consumption and production of dirty goods, eliminating this price signal also decreases consumption and production of those dirty goods.

Many recently-discussed trade policy reforms have potential environmental implications. For example, China has sought to impose export taxes on rare earth minerals and other dirty goods, and the U.S. has

11 percent of global CO₂-equivalent ([Climate Watch 2019](#)). Some research estimates that the EU ETS decreased EU emissions relative to a counterfactual by about 10 percent ([Dechezlepretre et al. 2018](#)), which implies that the EU ETS decreased global emissions by about 1.1 percent.

increased protection on steel and aluminum. This analysis suggests a few conclusions that are relevant to such reforms: trade policy reforms can have quantitatively meaningful effects on CO₂ emissions; it is valuable to assess both the environmental and traditional costs and benefits of such trade policies; and policymakers concerned about the environment should consider decreasing protection on clean industries, not merely increasing protection on dirty industries.

7 Conclusions

This paper asks a simple but new question: how and why do tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) differ between clean and dirty industries? I define an industry’s “dirtiness” by the total CO₂ emitted to produce a dollar of output. I find a simple answer: tariff and NTB rates are substantially higher on clean than on dirty goods. This relationship appears in most countries, in cooperative and non-cooperative tariffs, and in many years and ways of analyzing the data.

At a broad level, this paper suggests that trade policy can have important impacts on environmental outcomes. The implicit subsidy to CO₂ in trade policy this paper analyzes, which has not been previously identified, totals \$550 to \$800 billion per year. For comparison, all direct global subsidies to fossil fuel consumption, which are a major focus of political debates involving the U.S., EU, World Bank, and IMF, together total about \$530 billion per year. General equilibrium model-based analyses require strong assumptions but suggest that if countries imposed similar tariffs and NTBs on clean and dirty industries, global CO₂ emissions would fall, while global real income would largely not change or slightly increase. The resulting change in global CO₂ emissions has similar magnitude to the estimated effects of some of the world’s largest actual or proposed climate change policies.

I find that trade policy has this subsidy because political economy variables that determine trade policy are correlated with CO₂ emissions. The data show an important role for an industry’s upstream location—the extent to which it sells to other firms versus final consumers. I describe theory and evidence consistent with the idea that firms lobby for high protection on their own outputs but low protection on their intermediate inputs. Because industries can be well organized but final consumers generally are not, countries end up with higher tariffs and NTBs on downstream (and clean) goods, and lower tariffs and NTBs on upstream (and dirty) goods.

These conclusions are relevant to policy. Climate change is a classic externality that would be addressed efficiently with a Pigouvian tax on CO₂ emissions. Today, however, a fifth of global output faces carbon prices, and existing carbon prices are heterogeneous and below typical estimates of the social cost of carbon emissions. Countries that do implement carbon prices face concerns that they will decrease the competitiveness of domestic energy-intensive industries and cause “leakage” of dirty production from regulated to unregulated regions. A common proposal to address these concerns is a tariff that is proportional to the carbon embodied in imported goods, usually called a carbon tariff or carbon border adjustment. I show that countries are imposing greater protection on clean than on dirty goods, so instead of internationally adopting a carbon tariff, most countries have implicitly created a carbon subsidy

in trade policy. Using trade policy negotiations to decrease this environmental bias of trade policy could help address climate change. This proposal is particularly relevant in regions like the EU which already have a domestic carbon price, but which currently have trade policies that may be encouraging leakage of dirty production to other regions rather than preventing it.

What is the political feasibility of harmonizing tariffs and NTBs between clean and dirty industries? The exact nature of the reform, of course, heavily influences its political feasibility. For example, increasing tariffs and NTBs on upstream goods could disadvantage developing countries, who may have a comparative advantage in producing upstream goods, though environmental interest groups and dirty industries might support such reforms. Because dirty industries are disproportionately upstream, downstream industries lobbying for low tariffs on their inputs might oppose such reforms. Lobbying from energy-intensive industries is usually a problem for climate change policy, but for these reforms it would actually increase their feasibility. More generally, climate change and the environment have never been part of the argument against tariff escalation, and are rarely part of the debate in choosing relative levels of tariffs and NTBs across industries. The evidence in this paper suggests that making the environment part of these policy conversations could produce important benefits.

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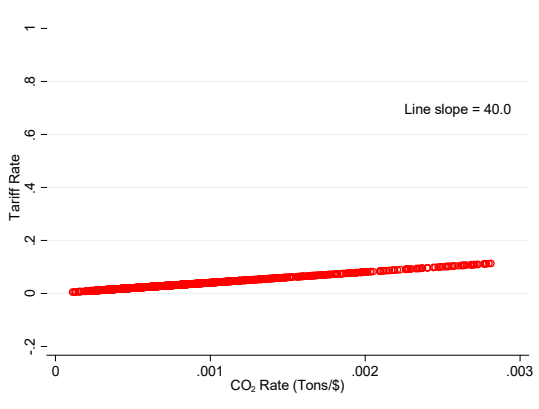
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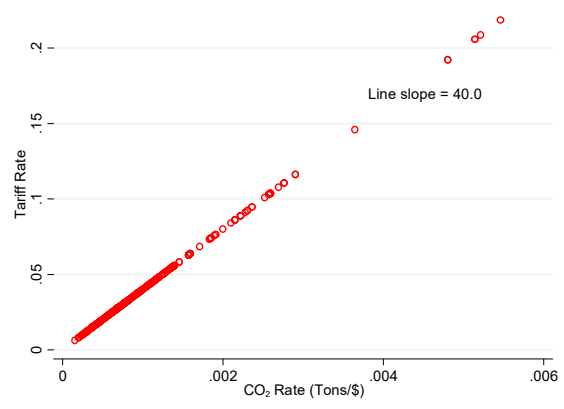
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Figure 1—Trade Protection Versus CO₂ Emission Rates

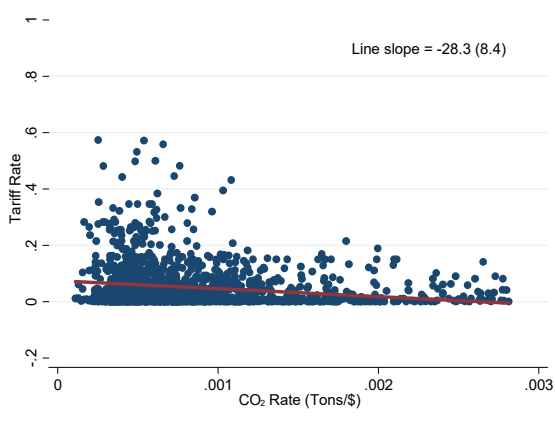
Panel A. Global hypothetical \$40/ton carbon tariff



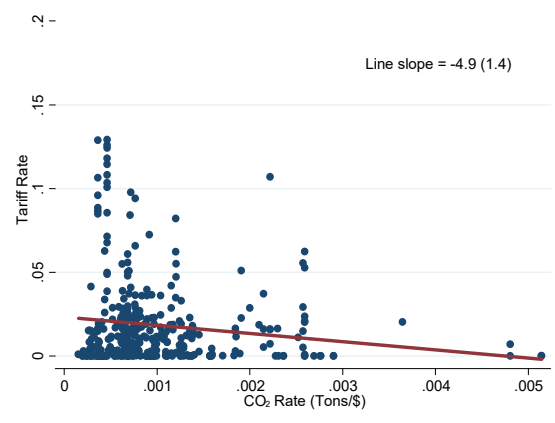
Panel B. U.S. hypothetical \$40/ton carbon tariff



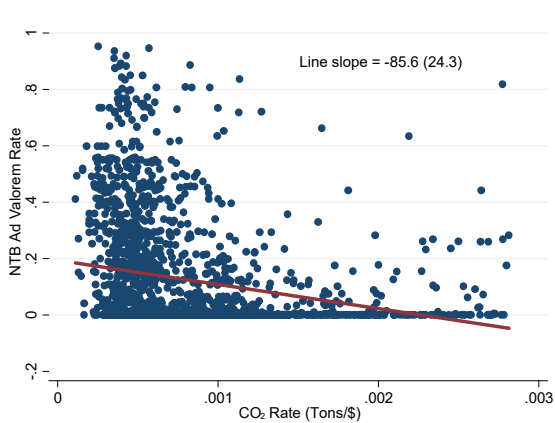
Panel C. Actual global tariffs



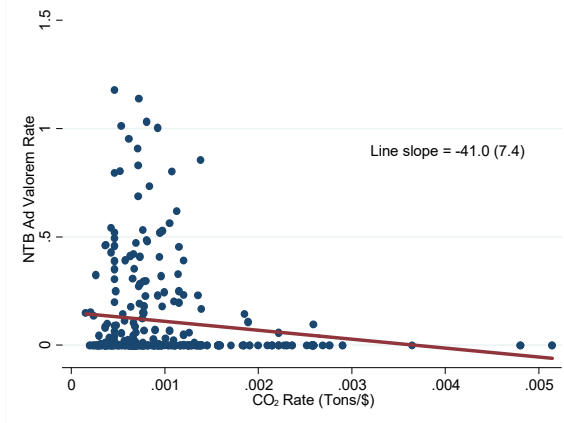
Panel D. Actual U.S. tariffs



Panel E. Actual global non-tariff barriers

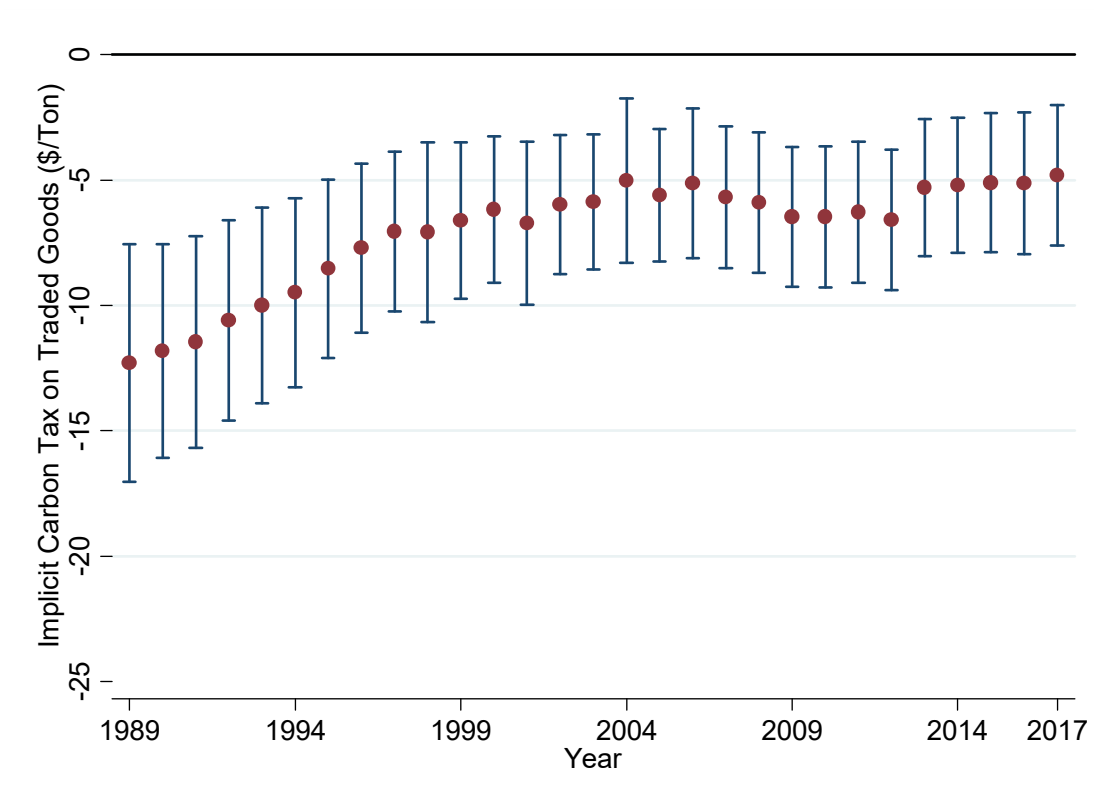


Panel F. Actual U.S. non-tariff barriers



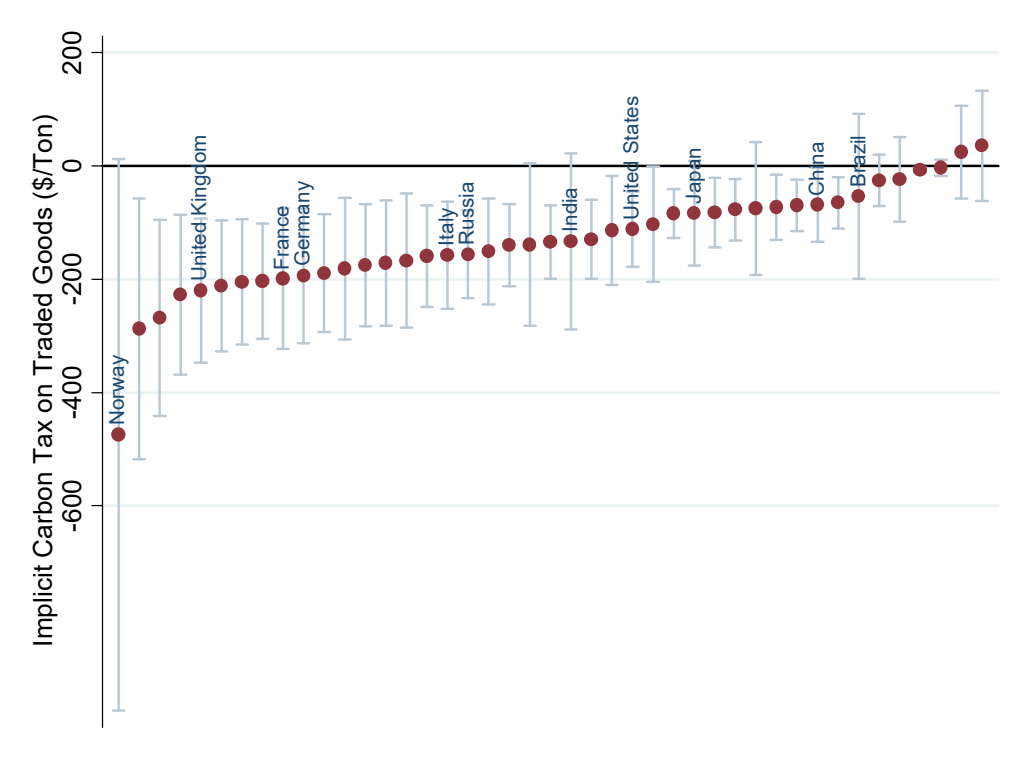
Notes: Panels A and B plot a hypothetical carbon tariff of \$40/ton. Each point in global data is an importer×industry pair; each point in U.S. data is an industry. CO₂ rate is total (direct+indirect) emissions measured from inverting an input-output table. Line is linear trend; in Panels C and E, line is fitted from regressions including importer fixed effects. Each graph excludes the top 1% of CO₂ rates, tariffs, and NTB rate. Numbers for line slopes correspond to the specifications and values of Tables 2 and 3, column 5. Standard errors are clustered by industry.

Figure 2—Correlation Between U.S. Import Tariffs and CO₂ Emission Rates



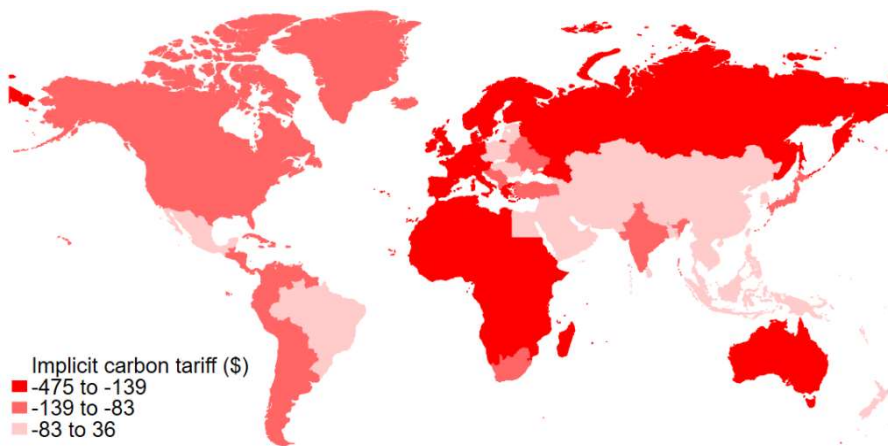
Notes: Implicit carbon tax is the coefficient from a regression of import tariffs on CO₂ emission rates, as in equation (1). Graph shows a separate regression for each year. Emissions intensity is estimated from 2007 input-output tables and applied to all years. Circles show the coefficient estimates, bars show robust 95% confidence intervals. Regressions use instrumental variables, total CO₂ is instrumented with direct CO₂.

Figure 3—Covariance of Trade Protection and CO₂ Emission Rates, by Country



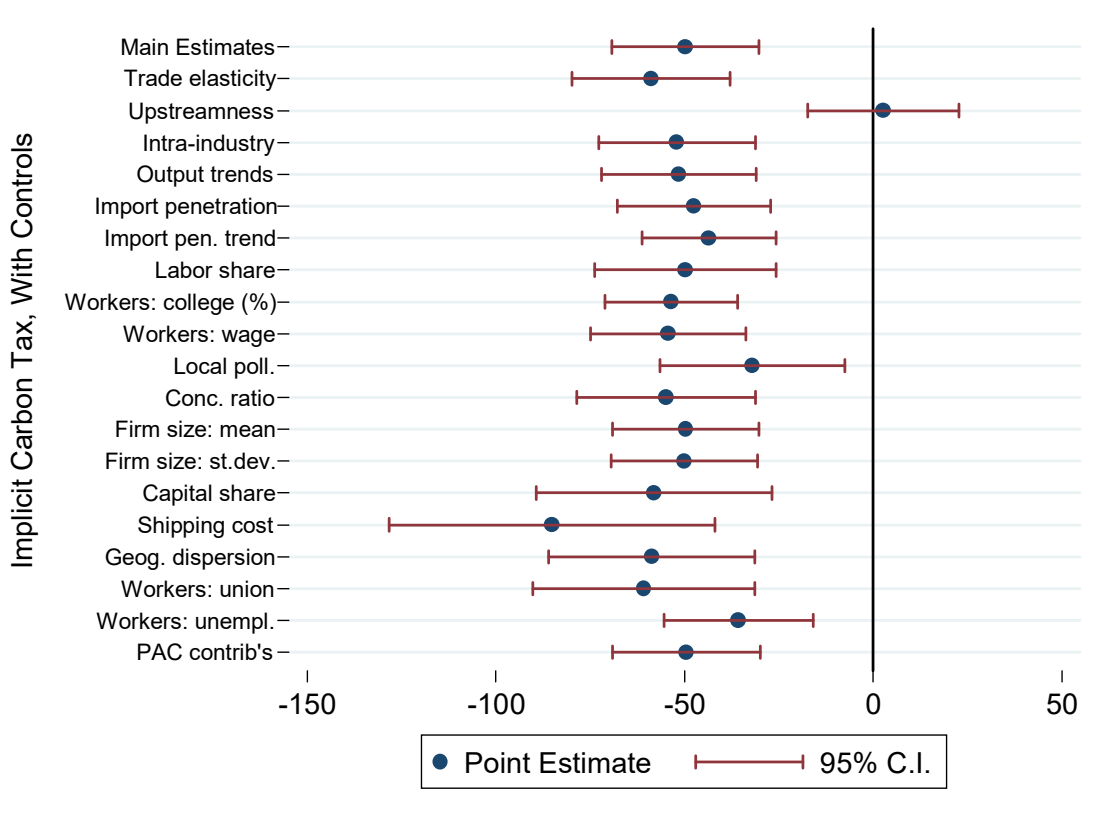
Notes: Implicit carbon tax is the coefficient from a regression of import tariffs plus NTBs (ad valorem equivalent) on a constant and on total CO₂ emission rate (tons/\$), measured from inverting the input-output matrix, which accounts for both primary fossil fuels used in an industry and emissions embodied in intermediate goods used in the industry. A separate regression is run for each country. Total CO₂ is instrumented with the direct CO₂ emissions rate from the input-output table, measured in the same industry but in the 5 smallest other countries. Data from year 2007. Graph excludes five Exiobase countries missing NTB data: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Slovakia, and Taiwan. Red circles are point estimates, vertical bars are robust 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 4—Implicit Carbon Tax on Traded Goods, by Country



Notes: Implicit carbon tax is the coefficient from a regression of import tariffs plus NTBs (ad valorem equivalent) on CO₂ emission rates and a constant, separately for each country. Data correspond to Figure 3. Graphs include five rest-of-world groups, one per continent.

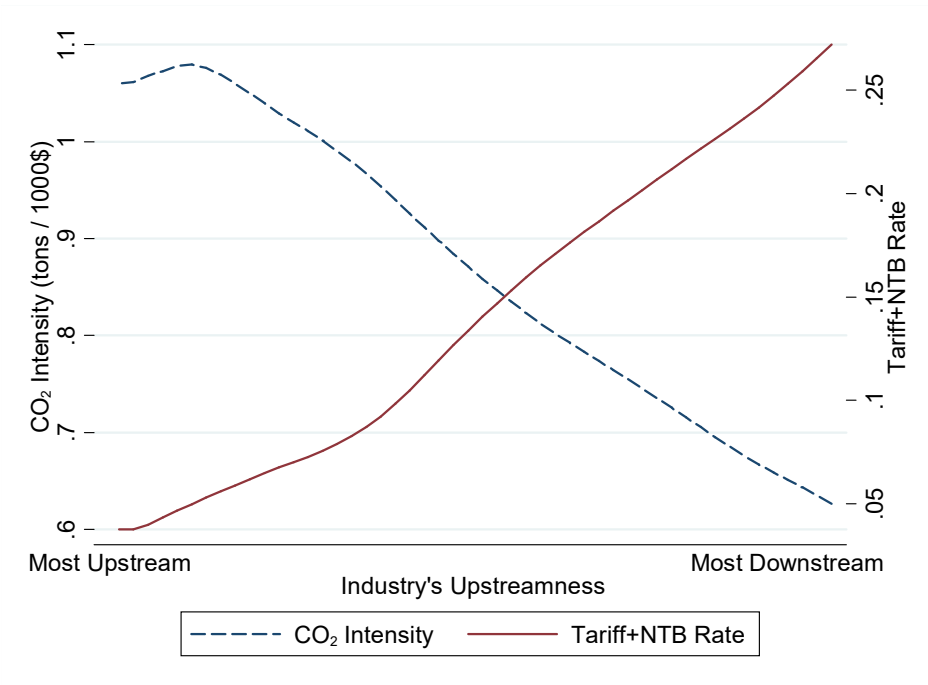
Figure 5—Political Economy Explanations for CO₂ Subsidies Implicit in U.S. Imports



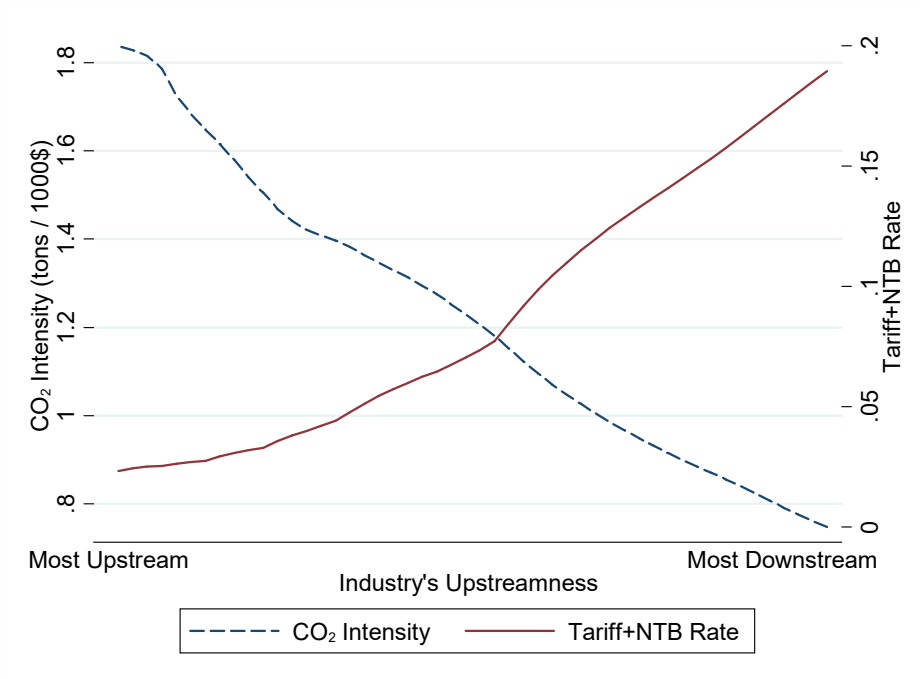
Notes: each blue circle represents the coefficient on total CO₂ intensity, instrumented by direct CO₂ intensity, from a regression of tariffs+NTBs on CO₂ intensity. The red bar depicts the robust 95 percent confidence interval. Each regression includes one additional political economy control, indicated at the left part of the graph. Regressions are weighted by the value of imports.

Figure 6—Upstreamness, CO₂ Intensity, and Trade Policy

Panel A: All Global Trade



Panel B: U.S. Only



Notes: solid line is local linear regression of tariffs plus NTBs on upstreamness. Dashed line is local linear regression of CO₂ intensity on upstreamness. Each observation is an importer×industry (Panel A) or an industry (Panels C). All lines use Epanechnikov kernel with bandwidth of 0.75.

Table 1—Cleanest and Dirtiest Manufacturing Industries in Global Data

	CO ₂ Rate (Tons/\$)×1000 (1)	Import Tariff Rate (2)	Non-Tariff Barriers (3)
<i>Panel A. Cleanest industries</i>			
Pork processing	0.34	0.10	0.37
Meat products n.e.c.	0.36	0.10	0.37
Sugar refining	0.37	0.20	0.42
Wood products	0.37	0.01	0.03
Motor vehicles	0.40	0.03	0.05
<i>Mean of cleanest 5 industries</i>	<i>0.37</i>	<i>0.09</i>	<i>0.25</i>
<i>Panel B. Dirtiest industries</i>			
Bricks, tiles	1.54	0.02	0.02
Coke oven products	1.64	0.01	0.01
Iron and steel	1.74	0.01	0.02
Phosphorus fertilizer	1.93	0.02	0.11
Nitrogen fertilizer	2.53	0.02	0.11
<i>Mean of dirtiest 5 industries</i>	<i>1.88</i>	<i>0.02</i>	<i>0.05</i>

Notes: CO₂ rates are measured in metric tons of CO₂ per thousand dollars of output, calculated by inverting a global multi-region input output region from Exiobase. Dollars are deflated to real 2016 values using U.S. GDP deflator. Global refers to the mean value across all countries, weighted by the value of output; industries ordered based on global emissions; n.e.c. means not elsewhere classified. Import tariffs are ad valorem and measured in year 2007 CEPII Macmap data. Non-tariff barriers are ad valorem, from Kee et al. (2009).

Table 2—Association of Import Tariffs and CO₂ Emissions Rates

	FS		RF		OLS		IV	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<i>Panel A: All global trade (global input-output table)</i>								
CO ₂ rate	1.38*** (0.09)	1.54*** (0.08)	-44.69*** (13.24)	-17.19** (8.16)	-28.28*** (8.42)	-4.48 (6.17)	-32.31*** (8.41)	-11.17** (5.40)
N	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021
Dependent Var. Mean	0.001	0.001	0.052	0.028	0.052	0.028	0.052	0.028
K-P F Statistic	—	—	—	—	—	—	228.96	352.59
<i>Panel B: U.S. Imports (U.S. data)</i>								
CO ₂ rate	1.32*** (0.19)	1.58*** (0.51)	-7.52*** (2.00)	-10.35*** (3.71)	-4.89*** (1.40)	-3.23*** (0.94)	-5.69*** (1.44)	-6.55*** (2.29)
N	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
Dependent Var. Mean	0.001	0.001	0.018	0.016	0.016	0.018	0.018	0.016
K-P F Statistic	—	—	—	—	—	—	50.33	9.77
Weighted		X		X		X		X

Notes: Table shows regressions of import tariffs on CO₂ rates. Weights are the value of imports. Panel A uses global Exiobase data; Panel B uses U.S. data. Each observation in Panel A is an importer×industry; each observation in Panel B is an industry. Panel A includes importer fixed effects. All regressions include a constant. The endogenous variable is the total CO₂ emissions rate (tons/\$) measured from inverting the input-output matrix, which accounts for both primary fossil fuels used in an industry and emissions embodied in intermediate goods used in the industry. For Panel A, the instrument is the direct CO₂ emissions rate from the input-output table, measured in the same industry but in the 10 smallest other countries. For Panel B, the instrument is the CO₂ emissions rate measured from MECS and CM, which accounts for primary fossil fuels used in an industry and electricity consumed in the industry. Emissions rates measured in metric tons of CO₂ per dollar of output. Output is measured in 2016 US\$, deflated with the U.S. GDP deflator. FS is first-stage, RF is reduced-form, OLS is ordinary least squares, IV is instrumental variables. All data from year 2007. Standard errors clustered by industry are in parentheses. Asterisks denote p-value * < 0.10, ** < 0.05, *** < 0.01.

Table 3—Association of Non-Tariff Barriers and CO₂ Emissions Rates

	FS		RF		OLS		IV	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<i>Panel A. All global trade (global input-output table)</i>								
CO ₂ rate	1.38***	1.54***	-124.15***	-116.51**	-85.58***	-73.22*	-89.78***	-75.67**
	(0.09)	(0.08)	(40.92)	(43.81)	(24.33)	(36.75)	(26.75)	(29.38)
N	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021	2,021
Dep. Var. Mean	0.001	0.001	0.126	0.088	0.126	0.088	0.126	0.088
K-P F Statistic	—	—	—	—	—	—	228.96	352.59
<i>Panel B. U.S. imports (U.S. data)</i>								
CO ₂ rate	1.32***	1.58***	-63.34***	-59.13***	-41.04***	-17.98***	-47.96***	-37.41***
	(0.19)	(0.51)	(16.68)	(20.78)	(7.44)	(4.15)	(10.03)	(12.33)
N	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379
Dep. Var. Mean	0.001	0.001	0.109	0.079	0.109	0.079	0.109	0.079
K-P F Statistic	—	—	—	—	—	—	50.33	9.77
Weighted		X		X		X		X

Notes: Table shows regression of NTB rates on CO₂ rates. Columns 1 through 4 are weighted by the value of imports. Panel A uses global Exiobase data; Panel B uses U.S. data. Each observation in Panel A is an importer×industry; each observation in Panel B is an industry. Panels A includes importer fixed effects. All regressions include a constant. The endogenous variable is the total CO₂ emissions rate (tons/\$) measured from inverting the input-output matrix, which accounts for both primary fossil fuels used in an industry and emissions embodied in intermediate goods used in the industry. For Panel A, the instrument is the direct CO₂ emissions rate from the input-output table, measured in the same industry but in the 10 smallest other countries. For Panel B, the instrument is the CO₂ emissions rate measured from MECS and CM, which accounts for primary fossil fuels used in an industry and electricity consumed in the industry. Emissions rates measured in metric tons of CO₂ per dollar of output. Output is measured in 2016 US\$, deflated with the U.S. GDP deflator. FS is first-stage, RF is reduced-form, OLS is ordinary least squares, IV is instrumental variables. All data from year 2007. The dependent variable is the ad valorem NTB rate from Kee et al. (2009). Standard errors clustered by industry are in parentheses. Asterisks denote p-value * < 0.10, ** < 0.05, *** < 0.01.

Table 4—Political Economy Explanations for Implicit Carbon Taxes

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Panel A. All global trade</i>						
CO ₂ rate	-120.55*** (33.73)	-32.90 (25.60)	-120.76*** (33.17)	-121.42*** (35.50)	-120.92*** (34.12)	-120.44*** (33.62)
N	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990
<i>Panel B. All global trade, instrument for political economy</i>						
CO ₂ rate	-120.55*** (33.73)	34.61 (38.88)	-111.66*** (40.04)	-125.64*** (47.61)	-101.50** (43.86)	-119.33*** (33.95)
K-P F Statistic	—	43.29	27.20	41.97	10.15	21.05
N	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990	1,990
<i>Panel C. U.S. imports</i>						
CO ₂ rate	-49.72*** (9.90)	2.74 (10.19)	-51.99*** (10.54)	-47.50*** (10.32)	-49.75*** (12.19)	-54.32*** (10.45)
N	358	358	358	358	358	358
Upstreamness		X				
Intra-industry			X			
Import pen. ratio				X		
Labor share					X	
Mean wage						X

Notes: Dependent variable in all regressions is sum of tariffs and NTBs. Each observation is a country*industry (Panels A and B) or industry (Panel C). In all regressions, CO₂ rate is the total CO₂ rate (tons/\$) from inverting an input-output table, which is instrumented with the direct CO₂ rate. In panel B, each political economy variable (upstreamness, intra-industry share, etc.) is instrumented with the mean of each political economy variable in the industry of interest across the five smallest other countries in the data, measured by gross manufacturing output. Panels A and B use Exiobase data, panel C uses U.S. data. Panels A and B include country fixed effects. All regressions include a constant. Standard errors clustered by industry are in parentheses. Asterisks denote p-value * < 0.10, ** < 0.05, *** < 0.01.