Remark: words underlined are the logical appeals; highlighted are the rhetorical codes

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Environmental tax, or green tax, which is designed to punish behaviors that is harmful to the environment, have been introduced in America since 1970s. Over the past few decades, thousands of factories in US, who causes pollution, pay for this tax; while tech companies pay few of these taxes. So today I’m arguing that, AI companies in the US, should pay for environmental tax, as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, let’s make a comparison. Suncor, an oil companies which emits 23 million tons of carbon dioxide per year, need to pay 590 million dollars of tax (1)(2). While for OpenAI, well-known ChatGPT provider, consumes 1.3 gigawatts, which can power a small city for a year, just for training their models. However, they paid no extra taxes (4). Is it reasonable?*[Rhetorical Question]* Even worse, Google’ data center in the Arizona State, dried up a river and affects the local ecosystem just because it used too much water (5). As you can see, AI companies might actually have even worse impact on the environment than chemical factories, but as they are not chemical factories, they don’t need to pay for environmental tax according to the laws in the US. As the US own the most AI companies in the world, the negative impact is significant. Since it’s significant, the US need action to make environmental taxes in line with their original purpose*[Anadiplosis]*.

Some AI companies in the US, including Microsoft, realized the environmental problem. They promise to reduce energy consumption. But what do they actually do? They used more resources year by year to be more competitive than other companies*[Hypophora]*. We see the US also need actions to regulate the companies’ behaviors.

Hence, the US should implement environmental taxes on AI companies, just at a same standard as the chemical factories, which is fair, is enough. AI companies are encouraged to develop energy-efficient algorithms, are encouraged to optimize computing hardware, are encouraged to use clear energy, are encouraged to align their actions with their promises*[Tri-colon]*, to be responsible to the environment, to be responsible to the public.

It’s true that AI companies have abundant financial resources. They don’t really care about the taxes. But the revenue generated from green taxes can be directed backwards environmental protection. The tax can support social organization to plant more trees, support people to reuse and recycle more goods, even support AI companies themselves to deal with environmental issues*[Tri-colon]*. That’s enough.

Ladies and gentlemen, environmental taxes for AI companies should not be viewed as burden, but rather as a reminder, a means to encourage AI companies to be responsible to their behaviors. AI companies should pay environmental tax at least at the same standard with factories, until the day they consume small enough resources.

Reference

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