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June 20, 2018

Dear Prof. Sovacool,

It is my pleasure to submit for your consideration **“The political economy of national climate policy: architectures of constraint and a typology of countries”** as an *original research article*.

In this manuscript we address an important topic in energy and climate mitigation research: *what are national political economic constraints to climate policy, and which countries are exposed to them?* The article is structured into three parts, exploring the conceptual foundations, relevant literature, and empirical stylized facts necessary for answering this question.

The core of our paper is dedicated to examining constraints to climate policy. Our focus is on broad, national, quantifiable trends, such as institutional quality, exposure to fossil rents, climate awareness, and others. We identify these through a literature review, then proceed to demonstrating some stylized facts. We find strong co-dependencies between constraints, suggesting multiple issues tend to manifest together. We also find stability in crucial dimensions, indicating that underlying conditions are not improving in many countries.

A second contribution from our paper is to build a typology of countries, based on their (quantified) exposure to the identified constraints. These groups include oil & gas states, fragile states, industrializing coal states, fractured democracies, and the wealthy OECD. We are motivated to this analysis by the intuition that issues such as fossil rent-seeking, corruption and weak democratic norms are not isolated, but may be symptomatic of self-reinforcing architectures that actively prevent attempts at reform. A typology provides the first step towards identifying and countering such architectures.

While our paper is long (~13,000 words), we believe these different sections are complimentary and necessary to gain a rounded picture of the problem at hand. We have submitted as an original research article, but a review may also be appropriate. I hope you consider this manuscript worthy for publication.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. William F. Lamb

Director
Prof. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer

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MCC was founded jointly by Stiftung
Mercator and the Potsdam Institute
for Climate Impact Research.