

## LETTER TO THE INDEPENDENT 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006

Dear Sirs,

Your leader (“The true cost of cheap flights” 2<sup>nd</sup> March) is misleading about air travel and climate change. Aviation represents **just 3 percent** of global carbon dioxide emissions and air passengers already pay a UK environmental tax – Air Passenger Duty – which raises almost £1 billion each year. This is 1½ times the carbon cost of the flights, yet not one penny is used to address any environmental impacts.

This highlights the ineffectiveness of taxation in improving environmental performance. The inclusion of aviation in an international emissions trading scheme would produce economic incentives that encourage more environmentally efficient air travel and reductions in the sectors that produce the other 97 percent of global emissions.

Yours faithfully

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