



Tonight, starring as Iago:  
ExxonMobil Vice President Ken  
Cohen

[This should be right up there in the annals of political chutzpah:](#)

[ExxonMobil](#), the biggest international oil company, accused the [US administration](#) and Congress of “political theatre” in targeting the industry with discriminatory tax proposals that are due to be promoted at a Senate panel on Thursday.

The “discriminatory tax proposals” that gullible FT correspondents Sheila McNulty and James Politi noted are calls for eliminating the generous tax subsidies that oil producers get. McNulty and Politi — who do not quote a single supporter of subsidy reduction in the piece — argue that the 6% income deduction that oil producers get is somehow “discriminatory” because “other” domestic manufacturing income is deducted at 9%. They neglect to mention that oil drilling is, you know, ***not manufacturing***.

This is a [John McEnroe moment](#). *ExxonMobil* is accusing *others* of political theatre? You mean the [ExxonMobil that continues to fund climate denialism](#) to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars despite public pledges not to do so? Or the ExxonMobil that [has conducted a coordinated misinformation campaign about climate change](#)? Or the ExxonMobil that piously lectures the rest of us about the free market and then demands billions in taxpayer subsidies?

You couldn't make this stuff up.