



The New York Times

Letters to the Editor

Re “The World Needs to Quit Oil. Africa’s Proposal: Rich Countries First” (news article, Nov. 10):

Indeed! At the present time, more than a billion people, several hundred million in Africa and India alone, live in poverty thanks to a lack of reliable energy. As an economist, I believe that the imposition of “green mandates” on developing countries is no different from economic tariffs. It must inevitably retard their development, as well as their ability to export their natural resources to the rest of the world.

What makes it unconscionable is that the richer countries cloak their intentions under a toga of morality. If the planet is to be saved, then that saving must begin at home rather than forcing developing countries into an existence that not even the poorest of the own poor in rich countries would accept.

Mark Castelino
Newark

The writer is an associate professor of finance at Rutgers Business School.