The Pollution Premium

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Abstract

This paper studies the implications of environmental pollution on the cross-section of stock returns. We use chemical emissions reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to measure firms' toxic release every year. A long-short portfolio constructed from firms with high versus low toxic emission intensity within industry generates an average return of 5.52% per annum. The return spread cannot be explained by common systematic risk factors. To explain this pollution premium, we develop a general equilibrium asset pricing model in which firms' cash flows face the uncertainty of policy regime shifts in the environmental regulation. High emission ("dirty") firms are more exposed to the policy regime shift risk, and are therefore expected to earn a higher average return than low emission ("clean") firms. We then provide more empirical evidence to support our model assumptions and implications.

JEL Codes: E2, E3, E4, G1, Q5

Keywords: Toxic emissions, Regime shift risk, Uncertainty, Environmental regulation, Cross-section of stock returns

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1 Introduction

Pollution is an unavoidable byproduct of industrial production when firms produce goods and products to satisfy households' need. Without environmental regulations, firms that maximize shareholder values have little incentive to reduce its environmental impact. Nowadays, laws and regulations require firms to pay attention to environmental issues and internalize the social costs of pollution. The emission regulation regime is significantly changing over time. For example, the regulation of EU's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) begins with free but ends with auctions for carbon emission quotas.[1] In this paper, we study the asset pricing implications of policy regime shift risk of the environmental regulation, in particular, through the lens of the cross-section of stock returns. We first put forward a general equilibrium asset pricing model in which high emission firms' profitability and therefore stock prices are more exposed to the policy regime shift risk; as a result, it rationalizes a pollution-return relation, and we call it the pollution premium.

We first develop a general equilibrium asset pricing model in which firms' cash flows face the uncertainty of regime shifts in the environmental regulation. In our model, government (social planer) learns about the welfare cost of toxic emissions under a weak regulation regime in a Bayesian fashion by observing signals, and actively makes an optimal decision between a strong or weak emission regulation regime. The adoption of a strong regulation regime will lower the emission but bring a negative impact on all firms' profitability, leading to a stronger negative impact on firms with high emissions. The government maximizes social welfare based on such a trade-off, as a social planner would do. In particular, we find that it is optimal for the government to replace a weak regulation regime by a strong one if the environmental cost is perceived to be sufficiently high. That is, the posterior mean of the pollution cost is above a given endogenous threshold. On the one hand, a shift from the weak to strong regime is assumed to negatively affect the economy-wide average profitability, and therefore causes a upward spike in the stochastic discount factor; on the other hand, since high emission firms' profitability are affected more than low emission firms, the former display a larger decline in stock prices upon a regime shift and are more negatively exposed to a regulation regime shift risk and therefore earn higher average excess returns ex-ante, consistent with our empirical findings.

Our model is based on but differs from Pástor and Veronesi (2012, 2013): we focus on the cross-sectional variation of expected stock returns, while they focus on the time-series fluctuation of the aggregate equity market value. Pástor and Veronesi (2012) model the

[1]The ETS is undoubtedly the most important environmental regulation with different stages for enforcement. The regulation begins from phase I of the ETS with free carbon quotas for firms, and ends with Phase III that firms have to access to carbon emission quotas via auctions from 2013 onwards.

realized return on the aggregate equity market on the announcement of policy changes, and Pástor and Veronesi (2013) study expected aggregate equity premium driven by policy uncertainties.

To study the empirical relation between toxic emissions and expected stock returns at the firm level, we construct a measure of emission intensity using data from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and data from Compustat. We measure a firm's toxic emissions by summing chemical emissions across all its plants in the EPA database. We then assign firms in different portfolios based on their ratios of chemical emissions over book equity relative to their industry peers, given that chemical emissions in general vary across industries. Such portfolio sorting shows that firms producing more pollution are associated with higher subsequent stock returns, and that the high-minus-low portfolio strategy based on simple emissions (toxicity-adjusted emissions) yields statistically significant average returns of 5.52% (5.87%) per annum. We also find significant alphas such that the high-minus-low portfolio is literally unaffected by known return factors for other systematic risks. These findings suggest a pollution-related risk premium driven by heterogeneous exposures to unspecified risk.

To assess whether the cross-sectional return predictive power of emission intensity is robust to a wider set of controls, we perform Fama and MacBeth (1973) regressions that control for industry effects and other known predictors including size, book-to-market ratio, profitability, book leverage, R&D intensity, organization capital, asset growth, and investment intensity. We find that simple emissions and toxicity-adjusted emissions predict stock returns with strong statistical significance. In addition, a one-standard deviation increase in firm-level emission intensity increases future stock returns by 6.8% to 9.9% per year. Overall, the emission-return relation we find remains economically and statistically significant, irrespective of the control variables we consider.

Additional empirical analyses provide supportive evidence to our model assumptions and predictions as follows. First, firm-level emissions negatively and significantly predict future profitability. Second, when the policy regime is more likely to shift (measured by a higher number of firms reporting emissions, higher temperature, and more rainfalls), firms with higher emissions experience more declines in future profits. Third, we verify the channel for the reduced profitability by showing that high emission firms are more likely involved in future litigations related to environmental issues. Last and most importantly, we show that high emission firms' market value significantly decreases as the policy regime shifts.

In summary, our work identifies a new source of risk for investors: a regime shift risk of emission regulation policy, and such risk affects higher emission firms greater. From the perspective of investors, investing in firms with heavy pollution is risky because their profitability and stock prices are more negatively affected upon a regime shift from weak to strong emission regulation policy, which makes investors to require higher expected stock returns as risk compensation. Hence, our pollution proxies, simple emissions and toxicity-adjusted emissions, carry risk characteristics distinct from characteristics documented in the literature.

This paper is related to a growing strand of literature investigating the link between the policy implication and environmental pollution. Most of these papers focus a great deal on the economic consequence of the global warming and climate change. Acemoglu (2002) shows that two major forces to bias the technological change are price effect and market size effect. Acemoglu, Aghion, Bursztyn, and Hemous (2012) suggest policy interventions to direct innovation from dirty technologies to clean ones, if two types of technologies are substitutable. If the dirty technology is more advanced, Acemoglu, Akcigit, Hanley, and Kerr (2016) show that interventions, including taxes and subsidies, lead to the transition to clean technology. From the study of automobile industries, Aghion, Dechezleprêtre, Hemous, Martin, and van Reenen (2016) find that cost-saving motivations encourage firms to develop clean technologies. All of these studies are quite different from ours, and none of them analyzes the asset pricing implications. Unlike other works in carbon emissions issue, Currie, Davis, Greenstone, and Walker (2015) investigate the impact of toxic emissions on housing value and infant health. We differ in that out paper studies the implications of firms' exposures to regulation regime shifts in asset prices and returns.

Our work is connected to the literature of asset pricing implications of social responsibility and climate change. Hong and Kacperczyk (2009) find "sin" industries, such as alcohol, tobacco, and gaming, outperform non-sin industries since the effect of social norm restricts institution investors to invest in these "sin" industries and causes funding constraints for the "sin" industries. Recently, Hong, Li, and Xu (2016) study impact of climate changes on financial market and provides evidence that food firms of countries in drought underperform those of countries that are not in drought. From the perspective of investment strategy, Andersson, Bolton, and Samama (2016) propose a hedging strategy against the climate risk. Chava (2014) studies the impact of social responsibility on a firm's cost of capital, and shows that firms with environmental concerns are costly in equity and debt financing. On the other hand, Bansal and Ochoa (2011) and Bansal, Kiku, and Ochoa (2016) use the climate change risk to embody the long-run risk in dividends and consumption dynamics, and study the implications of asset prices and social welfare. We differ from these papers in that our work concentrates on firms' toxic emissions, studies the cross-sectional asset pricing implications, and, more importantly, proposes a general equilibrium model to explain that firms with high toxic emissions face more risk exposures to regulation regime shifts.

Our paper is also related to asset pricing implications with macroeconomic uncertainty, for which Pástor and Veronesi (2012, 2013) provide a comprehensive review of this literature.[2] Brogaard and Detzel (2015) study the asset pricing implications of the economic policy uncertainty index constructed by Baker, Bloom, and Davis (2016). Similar findings from Bali, Brown, and Tang (2017) suggest that uncertainty is priced in the cross-section by using the alternative measure of economic uncertainty index proposed by Jurado, Ludvigson, and Ng (2015). From the perspective of theoretical motivation, Pástor and Veronesi (2012, 2013) show the impact of government policy uncertainty on asset prices with Bayesian learning. Liu, Shu, and Wei (2017) find direct evidence that stock prices of high politically sensitive firms react more than those of low sensitive firms to political uncertainty. We differ in that out paper studies the financial effect of regulation uncertainty in toxic emissions.

Moreover, this paper provides novel theoretical and empirical analyses of the role of pollution to the literature relating consumption or productivity risk to the risk premium at the aggregate and firm levels.[3]

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the model. Section 3 introduces data construction and summary statistics. Section 4 shows our empirical analysis. Section 5 concludes. The appendix contains additional empirical evidence as well as our model solution.

[2]There is a large literature on theories of macroeconomic uncertainty, but we do not attempt to summarize it here.

[3] There is a large amount of theoretical and empirical works in the literature relating consumption or productivity risk to the equity risk premium. Ait-Sahalia, Parker, and Yogo (2004) and Lochstoer (2009) show that luxury consumptions can explain the equity premium. Yogo (2006) separates durable consumption from non-durable consumption to study the time-series asset pricing implications, while Gomes, Kogan, and Yogo (2009) further show that durable good producers are riskier than non-durable good producers since the demand for durable goods is more pro-cyclical. Moreover, Savov (2011) uses garbage release data to capture volatile consumption, and Da, Yang, and Yun (2015) use the electricity data to proxy for missing home-made goods. In addition, Kroencke (2016) points out the unfiltered consumption as an explanation for why garbage data outperforms NIPA consumption data in matching the equity premium. These works seek alternative proxies for smooth consumptions and attain successes in calibrations by generating sizable equity premium with reasonable risk aversion, and even claim to explain cross-sectional stock returns, e.g. Fama-French 25 portfolios, as extensions. The literature studing the asset pricing implications of production risk is called production-based asset pricing, which building a bridge between investment and stock returns.[4] Zhang (2005) provides an investment-based explanation for the value premium. Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013) develop a model of organizational capital and expected returns. Kogan and Papanikolaou (2013, 2014) study the relation between investment-specific technology shocks and stock returns and propose a fundamental explanation for the value premium. van Bingbergen (2016) documents the cross-sectional return spread by sorting on producer prices. Loualiche (2016) studies the cross-sectional difference in exposure to the globalization risk premium, and exemplifies such risk as an extension of the displacement risk proposed by Gârleanu, Kogan, and Panageas (2012).

2 A General Equilibrium Model

In this section, we build a general equilibrium asset pricing model that features risk of environmental policy regime shifts to explain the role of pollution in stock prices and expected returns. Our specification of policy regime shifts is similar to Pástor and Veronesi (2012, 2013).

2.1 The Model Economy

We consider an economy with a finite horizon $[0, T]$ and a continuum of firms $i \in [0, 1]$. Let B_t^i denote firm i's capital at time t. Debt financing is not taken into account, and firms in our economy entirely rely on equity financing. Therefore, B_t^i can also be regarded as book value of equity. At time 0, all firms are endowed with the same amount of capital, where we normalize to $B_0^i = 1$. Firm i invests its capital in a linear production technology with a stochastic rate of return denoted by $d\Pi_t^i$. All profits are reinvested, so that firm i's capital dynamics denote $dB_t^i = B_t^i d\Pi_t^i$. Given that $d\Pi_t^i$ equals profits over book equity, we refer to it as the profitability of firm i. For all $t \in [0, T]$, profitability follows the process

$$d\Pi_t^i = (\mu + \xi^i g)dt + \sigma dZ_t + \sigma_I dZ_t^i, \tag{1}$$

where $(\mu, g, \sigma, \sigma_I)$ are observable and constant parameters, Z_t is a Brownian motion, and Z_t^i is an independent Brownian motion that is specific to firm i. The parameter g denotes the impact of different policy regime shifts (i.e. weak or strong environmental regulation) on the mean of the profitability process among firms. When $g = 0$, the environmental policy regime is "neutral" with a zero impact on firm i's profitability. The impact of environmental policy regime shifts, g, is constant while the same regime is in effect. At time τ (i.e., $0 < \tau < T$), the government makes an irreversible decision as to whether or not to change its environmental policy from a weak to strong regulation. As a result, g is a simple step function of time:

$$g = \begin{cases} g^{\mathrm{W}} & \text{for } t \leq \tau \\ g^{\mathrm{W}} & \text{for } t > \tau \text{ if there is no policy regime shift} \\ g^{\mathrm{S}} & \text{for } t > \tau \text{ if there is a policy regime shift,} \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

where g^{W} denotes the impact of the environmental policy under the weak regulation at the beginning. An environmental policy change replaces the weak regulation, W, by the strong regulation, S, and hence introduces a permanent drop in average profitability across firms. Such a policy decision is immediately effective when a regime shift occurs at time τ. We assume that $g^{\mathrm{W}} > 0$ and $g^{\mathrm{S}} < 0$. This key assumption captures the idea that different environmental policies bring strongly opposite impacts on firms' profitability. To illustrate this point, the parameter ξ^i governs firm i's exposure to environmental policy regime shifts. We assume that ξ^is are determined by emission level that ξ^is are drawn from an uniform distribution on the interval $[\xi^{min}, \xi^{max}]$ at time 0 and then keep unchanged. Without loss of generality, we normalize the cross-sectional distribution of ξ^is with a mean equal to 1. Supposed that there are two firms: a high emission firm (i.e. $\xi^H > 0$) and a low emission firm (i.e. ξ^L such that $\xi^L < \xi^H$). Owing to a lower abatement cost under the weak regime, the high emission firm's average profitability is higher than that of the low emission firm by the magnitude of g^{W}(i.e., $\xi^H - \xi^L > 0$). In stark contrast, because of $g^{\mathrm{S}} < 0$ under the the strong regime, the high emission firm's average profitability drops more than the low emission firm does. As is ξ^i drawn from a uniform distribution with the mean normalized to 1, therefore, environmental policy regime shifts trigger an adverse effect on the average profitability in the economy. In particular, the high emission firm's profitability is more subject to regime shifts. On the other hand, since ξ^i could be negative for the low emission firm, switching from a weak to a strong regime displays a positive impact on the low emission firm's average profitability when $\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}}$ is positive. Taken together, the cross-sectional dispersion in firms' exposures to regime shifts, ξ^is, plays an essential role as the driving force to determine different risk premia in equilibriums.

The firms are owned by a continuum of identical households who maximize expected utility derived from terminal wealth.[5] For all $j \in [0, 1]$, investor j's utility function is given by

$$U(W_T^j) = \frac{(W_T^j)^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}, \tag{3}$$

where W_T^j is investor j's wealth at time T and $\gamma > 1$ is the coefficient of relative risk aversion. At time 0, all investors are equally endowed with shares of firm stocks. Stocks pay dividends at time T.[6] Households observe whether regime shifts take place at time τ.

When making its policy decision at time τ, the government maximizes the same objective function as households, except that it also faces a environmental cost $\Phi(C)$ associated with regime shifts. The government commits to a change in environmental regulation only if households' expected utilities under the strong regulation is higher than under weak reg-

[5] This setting is consistent our empirical design of scaling emissions by book equity.

[6] No dividends are paid before time T because households' preferences do not involve intermediate consumption. Firms in our model reinvest all of their earnings, as mentioned earlier.

ulation. Specifically, the government solves the optimization problem

$$\max_{\tau>t}\left\{\mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{\Phi(C)W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{W}\right],\mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{S}\right]\right\},\tag{4}$$

where $W_T = B_T = \int_0^1 B_T^i di$ is the final value of aggregate capital, C is the *environmental cost* as the collateral damage if the weak regulation is retained, and $\Phi(C) = 1 + C$ is the corresponding cost function. We refer to $\Phi(C) = 1+C > 1$ as a cost for households because, given $\gamma > 1$ and the lognormal distribution assumption, higher value of $\Phi(C)$ translates into lower utility since $W_T^{1-\gamma}/(1-\gamma) < 0$. The value of C is randomly drawn at time τ from a lognormal distribution centered at $C = 1$.

$$c \equiv \log(C) \sim Normal\left(-\frac{1}{2}\sigma_c^2, \sigma_c^2\right),\tag{5}$$

where c is independent of the Brownian motions in equation (1). As soon as the value of c is revealed to all agents at time τ, the government uses it to make the environmental policy decision. We refer to σ_c as *regime shifts uncertainty*. Regime shifts uncertainty introduces an element of surprise into firms' valuations.

2.2 Learning about Environmental Costs

At time $t < \tau$, the government starts to learn about c by observing unbiased signals. We model these signals as *the true value of signal plus noise*, which takes the following form in continuous time:

$$ds_t = cdt + \eta dZ_t^c.\tag{6}$$

The signal ds_t is independent to other shocks in the economy. We call these shocks as the environmental cost signals, and interpret them as capturing the steady flow of news related to environmental issues deeply concerned by public medias and regulation authorities. Combining the signals in equation (6) with the prior distribution in equation (5), we obtain the posterior distribution of c at any time $t < \tau$:

$$c \sim Normal(\hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2),\tag{7}$$

where the posterior mean and variance evolve as

$$d\hat{c}_t = \hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1}d\hat{Z}_t^c,\tag{8}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2 = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sigma_c^2} + \frac{t}{\eta^2}}. \tag{9}$$

Equation (8) shows that the government's beliefs about c are driven by the Brownian motion shocks $d\hat{Z}_t^c$, which reflect the differences between the cost signals ds_t and their expectations ($d\hat{Z}_t^c = \eta^{-1}(ds_t - \mathrm{E}_t[ds_t])$). Since the cost signals are independent of all *fundamental* shocks in the economy (i.e., dZ_t and dZ_t^i), the innovations $d\hat{Z}_t^c$ represent signal shocks to the true value of environmental cost. These shocks shape the government's beliefs about which environmental policy is likely to be adopted in the future, above and beyond the effect of fundamental economic shocks. Such a shift in the belief alters the government's decision-making, and thus changes the probability of policy regime shifts. Thereafter, we refer signal shocks to *policy regime shift shocks*.

2.3 Optimal Regulation Regime Changes

After a period of learning about c, the government decides whether to implement policy regime shifts at time τ. If regime shifts, the value of g changes from g^{W} to g^{S}. According to equation (4), the government changes its policy regime if and only if

$$\mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{W}\right] > \mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{\Phi(C)W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{S}\right]. \tag{10}$$

Since regime shifts permanently affect future profitability, the two expectations in equation (10) are determined by different stochastic processes for the aggregate capital $B_T = \int_0^1 B_T^i di$. We show the aggregate capital at time T in the following Lemma.

Lemma 1. *The aggregate capital at time T, $B_T = \int_0^1 B_T^i di$, is given by*

$$B_T = B_\tau e^{\left(\mu + g - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)(T-\tau) + \sigma(Z_T - Z_\tau)}, \tag{11}$$

where $g \equiv g^W$ when there is no policy regime shift and $g \equiv g^S$ when there is a policy regime shift.

Proof. See Lemma 1 in Appendix.

Plugging the aggregate capital in equation (11) into equation (10), the inequality can be further simplified and provide a decision rule for policy regime shifts in the following Proposition.

Proposition 1. *The regulation regime changes occur at time τ if and only if*

$$\underline{c}(\tau) < c \tag{12}$$

where

$$\underline{c}(\tau) = \log \left\{ e^{(\gamma-1)(g^W - g^S)(T-\tau)} - 1 \right\} > 0. \tag{13}$$

p_τ denotes the probability to policy regime shifts at τ conditional on information at time τ

$$p_\tau = 1 - Normal(\underline{c}(\tau); \hat{c}_\tau, \hat{\sigma}^2_{c,\tau}), \tag{14}$$

where $N(x; \hat{c}_\tau, \hat{\sigma}^2_{c,\tau})$ denotes the c.d.f. of a normal distribution with mean $\hat{c}_\tau$ and variance $\hat{\sigma}^2_{c,\tau}$.

Proof. See Proposition 1 in Appendix.

Corollary 1. *$p_{\tau|t}$ denotes the probability to policy regime shifts at τ conditional on information at time t*

$$p_{\tau|t} = 1 - Normal(\underline{c}(\tau); \hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}^2_{c,t}), \tag{15}$$

where $N(x; \hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}^2_{c,t})$ denotes the c.d.f. of a normal distribution with mean $\hat{c}_\tau$ and variance $\hat{\sigma}^2_{c,\tau}$.

Proof. See Corollary 1 in Appendix.

The decision rule for policy regime shifts is characterized as follows. It causes a regulation change if the perceived environmental cost exceeds a given threshold. Once the cost is above the cutoff, the strong regulation is going to replace the weak regulation when the government perceives the undesirable policy regime under the weak regulation. Given $\gamma > 1$, higher γ implies that households are more risk averse to the strong regulation regime with negative g^{S}. As a result, the threshold $\underline{c}(\tau)$ becomes higher, suggesting a lower probability to shift to the strong regulation. Moreover, the threshold $\underline{c}(\tau)$ depends on the difference between g^{W} and g^{S}. A large difference indicates a costly transition from the weak to strong regulation when the aggregate profitability undergoes a permanent drop. Such an unfavorable economic consequence attenuates government's incentive to execute the strong environmental regulation. Therefore, we expect a lower likelihood for environmental policy regime shifts.

2.4 Asset Pricing Implications

In this subsection, we study the asset pricing implications of policy regime shift shocks in the following steps. First, we show the impact of policy regime shift shocks on the state price of density. Second, we show that firms' stock prices depend on fundamental shocks and policy regime shift shocks. Finally, we dissect firms' risk premia attributed to fundamental shocks and policy regime shift shocks, respectively.

Firm i's stock represents a claim on the firm i's liquidating dividend at time T, which is equal to B_T^i. Investors' total wealth at time T is equal to $B_T = \int_0^1 B_T^i di$. Stock prices adjust to make households hold all of the firm's stock. In addition to stocks, there is also a zero-coupon bond in zero net supply, which makes a unit payoff at time T with certainty. We use this risk-free bond as the numeraire.[7] Under the assumption of market completeness, standard arguments imply that the state price density is uniquely given by

$$\pi_t = \frac{1}{\kappa}\mathrm{E}_t\left[B_T^{-\gamma}\right], \tag{16}$$

where κ is the Lagrange multiplier from the utility maximization problem of the representative household. The market value of stock i is given by the present value of liquidated value at T

$$M_t^i = \mathrm{E}_t\left[\frac{\pi_T}{\pi_t}B_T^i\right]. \tag{17}$$

2.4.1 State Price Density

Our main focus is on the response of stock prices before regime shift uncertainty is resolved at time τ, agents learn about the impact of the policy regime as well as the environmental cost under the weak regulation. This learning generates stochastic variation in the posterior mean of c, according to equation (8), and the posterior mean represents a stochastic state variable that affects asset prices at time τ. On the other hand, the posterior variance of c varies deterministically over time in equation (9). We first determine the state price of density in the following proposition.

Proposition 2. *Before the resolution of regime shifts, for $t < \tau$, the state price density is given by*

$$\pi_t = B_t^{-\gamma}\Omega_t, \tag{18}$$

where

$$\Omega_t = e^{\left(-\gamma\mu+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)-\gamma g^W(\tau-t)}\left[p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^S(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^W(T-\tau)}\right] \tag{19}$$

Proof. See Proposition 2 in Appendix.

[7] This assumption is equivalent to assuming a risk-free rate of zero. Such an assumption is innocuous because, without intermediate consumption, there is no intertemporal consumption choice that would pin down the interest rate. This modeling choice ensures that interest rate fluctuations do not drive our results.

The dynamics of the state price of density π_t are essential for understanding the source of risks in this economy. An application of Ito's Lemma to π_t determines the stochastic discount factor in Proposition 3.

Proposition 3. *The stochastic discount factor (SDF) follows the process*

$$\frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t} = E_t\left[\frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t}\right] - \lambda dZ_t + \lambda_{c,t} d\hat{Z}_t^c, \tag{20}$$

where the price of risk for fundamental shocks denotes

$$\lambda = \gamma\sigma, \tag{21}$$

and the price of risk for uncertainty shocks denotes

$$\lambda_{c,t} = \frac{1}{\Omega_t}\frac{\partial\Omega_t}{\partial\hat{c}_t}\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1}. \tag{22}$$

Proof. See Proposition 3 in Appendix.

Equation (20) shows that the sensitivity of the pricing kernel to fundamental shocks, λ, and policy regime shift shocks, $\lambda_{c,t}$ determine the price of risks. Fundamental shocks are represented by the Brownian motion dZ_t, which drives the aggregate fundamentals (profitability) of the economy. The first term of SDF shows that the fundamental shocks affect the SDF in the same way when all parameters are known. The second type of shocks, as introduced from equation (8) to learn about the environmental cost, are unrelated to fundamental shocks. (i.e. $dZ_t \cdot d\hat{Z}_{c,t} = 0$). However, policy regime shift shocks affects the allocation of aggregate wealth, and are thus priced. Equation (22) indicates that policy regime shift shocks trigger a larger effect on the SDF when the sensitivity of marginal utility to variation in $\hat{c}_t$ is larger (i.e., $\partial\Omega_t/\partial\hat{c}_t$ is larger), when updated signals reveal that the environmental cost is larger, (i.e., $\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}$ is larger), and when the accuracy of the uncertainty shocks is larger (i.e., η^{-1} is larger). Above all, the sign of $\lambda_{c,t}$ is negative. The occurrence of policy regime shift shock increases the marginal value of wealth and the state price of density. Therefore, households dislike an increasing chance to switch to the strong regulation regime; hence, policy regime shift shocks carry a negative price of risk. Overall, a policy regime shifting to the strong regulation pulls down the aggregate profitability and is viewed as a transition to the bad state in the economy.

2.4.2 Stock Prices and Risk Premia

In this subsection, we present analytical expressions for the level and the dynamics of firm i's stock prices, respectively.

Proposition 4. *In the benchmark model for $t < \tau$, the stock price for firm i is given by*

$$M_t^i = B_t^i \Theta_t^i, \tag{23}$$

where

$$\Theta_t^i = e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2)(T-t)+\beta^i g^W(\tau-t)}\left[\phi_{\tau|t} e^{\beta^i g^S(T-\tau)} + (1-\phi_{\tau|t}) e^{\beta^i g^W(T-\tau)}\right], \tag{24}$$

and

$$\phi_t \equiv \frac{p_{\tau|t}}{p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t}) e^{-\gamma(g^W-g^S)(T-\tau)}}. \tag{25}$$

Proof. *See Proposition 4 in Appendix.*

The dynamics of firm i's stock prices are presented in the following proposition.

Proposition 5. *Firm i's realized stock returns at $t < \tau$ follow the process*

$$\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i} = E_t\left[\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i}\right] + \sigma dZ_t + \sigma_I dZ_t^i + \beta_{M,t}^i d\hat{Z}_t^c, \tag{26}$$

where firm i's risk exposure to fundamental and firm-specific shocks denotes σ and σ_I, respectively, and risk exposure to policy regime shift shocks denotes

$$\beta_{M,t}^i \equiv \frac{1}{\Theta_t^i} \frac{\partial \Theta_t^i}{\partial \hat{c}_t} \hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2 \eta^{-1}. \tag{27}$$

Proof. *See Proposition 5 in Appendix.*

Equation (27) presents that firm i's realized stock returns contain the risk exposure to fundamental shocks, σ, firm-specific shocks, σ_I, and policy regime shift shocks, $\beta_{M,t}^i$. The second term of firm i's realized stock returns shows that all firms in the economy face the same exposure σ to fundamental shocks when the parameter σ is known. The third term in equation (27) determines firm i's exposure to firm-specific shocks, and is homogeneous to a constant σ_I. Most importantly, policy regime shift shocks affect firms' profitability and valuations differently, generating the cross-sectional difference in risk exposures. The last term in equation (27) shows that policy regime shift shocks bring a greater effect on firm i's realized stock returns when the sensitivity of firm i's valuation M_t^i to variation in $\hat{c}_t$ is larger (i.e., $\partial\Theta_t^i/\partial\hat{c}_t$ is larger), when updated signals reveal that the environmental cost is larger, (i.e., $\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}$ is larger), and when the information about of the policy regime shocks is more accurate (i.e., η^{-1} is larger). Therefore,

$$\beta^i_{M,t} < 0, \tag{28}$$

which reflects the negative response to the occurrence of policy regime shift. Moreover, the cross-sectional difference in risk exposures to the regime shift shocks is presented in the following Corollary.

Corollary 2. *Firm i's exposure to policy regime shift shocks depends on ξ^i, which is the sensitivity of profitability to policy regime shifts.*

$$\frac{\partial \beta^i_{M,t}}{\partial \xi^i} < 0. \tag{29}$$

Equation (29) shows that firm i with a higher ξ^is experiences a larger collapse than does firm j with a lower ξ^i in realized stock returns. Such the underlying difference in ξ^i plays an essential role to determine heterogenous responses to policy regime shifts and to formalize the cross-sectional difference in expected stock returns.

In equilibrium, risk premia are determined by the Euler equation characterizing the covariance of firm's returns with the stochastic discount factor and is correlated with fundamental shocks and policy regime shift shocks. The stochastic discount factor is defined as the growth rate of the state price of density π_t and reflects the marginal utility of wealth. Assets with low payoffs when state price is high are more undesirable and thus command higher risk premia. To characterize the risk compensation for fundamental shocks and policy regime shift shocks, we derive the expressions for the conditional risk premium. In particular, firm i's expected stock return equals its risk premia

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{E}_t\left[\frac{dM^i_t}{M^i_t}\right] &= -\mathrm{Cov}_t\left(\frac{dM^i_t}{M^i_t}, \frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t}\right) \\ &= \sigma\lambda dt - \beta^i_{M,t}\lambda_{c,t} dt. \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

Equation (30) shows that firm i's risk premia are determined by the exposure to fundamental shock and policy regime shifts shock. Furthermore, firm i's risk premia can be decomposed into the product of the price of risk times firm i's risk exposure, as measured by the covariance of firm i's realized stock return with shocks. The price of risk of the fundamental shock in the stochastic discount factor is constant and depends on the parameter of risk aversion and the volatility with respect to the fundamental shock. The fact that the price of risk λ is positive implies that households demand a positive risk premium to invest in securities that are positively correlated with the fundamental shock.

The risk premium of the policy regime shift shock is in the second term in equation (30). The price of risk of regime shift shock, which reflects households' concerns about their marginal wealth, is negative. A positive policy regime shift shock lowers aggregate wealth through an increase in the probability of regime shifts, which leads to a permanent decrease in aggregate profitability. As a result, a positive uncertainty shock leads to high marginal utility of wealth states. Noted also that the impact of uncertainty shocks is the decline in asset valuations across firms, as reflecting a prevailing expectation for low cash flows in the future under the regime with a strong regulation. In particular, high emission (high ξ^is) firms' stock prices drop more than those of low emission firms. Therefore, agents have significant concerns about risk that permanently affects the economy in the future, and demand positive compensation for exposure to such uncertainty.

We refer this premium as the pollution risk premium, to emphasize its difference from risk premium driven by fundamental shocks. The cross-sectional asset pricing implication is as the following proposition.

Proposition 6. *Suppposed that there are two firms in the economy: one is a high emission firm, while the other is a low emission firm. According to equation (30), two firms' expected stock returns are denoted as*

$$E_t\left[\frac{dM_t^H}{M_t^H}\right] = \sigma\lambda dt - \beta_{M,t}^H \lambda_{c,t} dt, \tag{31}$$

and

$$E_t\left[\frac{dM_t^L}{M_t^L}\right] = \sigma\lambda dt - \beta_{M,t}^L \lambda_{c,t} dt, \tag{32}$$

respectively. The long-short portfolio of high versus low emission firms' expected stock returns denotes

$$E_t\left[\frac{dM_t^H}{M_t^H} - \frac{dM_t^L}{M_t^L}\right] \quad = \quad \left[(-\beta_{M,t}^H) - (-\beta_{M,t}^L)\right]\lambda_{c,t} dt \tag{33}$$

where $\beta_{M,t}^H < \beta_{M,t}^L < 0$.
Proof. As discussed earlier, $\xi^L < \xi^H$ *and* $\partial\beta_{M,t}^i/\partial\xi^i < 0$.

We make several observations for the long-short portfolio in equation (33) as follows. First, $\beta_{M,t}^H$ and $\beta_{M,t}^L$ are the risk exposures to uncertainty of regime shift. When the regulation regime changes, stock valuations for all firms with positive ξ^is fall, but the stock valuation of firm H with high ξ^H (high emissions) drop more than does that of firm L (low emissions). Therefore, high pollution firms face more exposures to uncertainty shocks. Given the negative price of risk with respect to uncertainty shocks ($\lambda_{c,t} > 0$), investors demand a positive premium to hold high emission firms H over low emission firms L. In a summary, the pollution risk premium compensates investors for uncertainty about whether the strong regulation would be implemented in the future.

2.5 Calibration and Quantitative Model Implications

In this subsection, we calibrate our model at the annual frequency and evaluate its ability to replicate key moments of both real quantities and asset price at the aggregate level. More importantly, we investigate its performance in terms of quantitatively accounting for the pollution premium in the cross-section of expected stock returns. Real quantities refer to the aggregate ROE and book-to-market ratio, while the aggregate asset price refers to the equity premium.

Table 1 presents a group of calibrated parameter values in our model. We adopt the following calibration procedure to determine a set of sensible parameters. All parameters are grouped into four categories. Parameters in the first category are determined by the previous literature. In particular, we set the relative risk aversion γ to be 2 and the volatility to firm-specific productivity shock σ_I to be 0.05. These parameters are in line with Pástor and Veronesi (2012, 2013). The parameters in the second category are determined by matching a set of first and second moments of quantities to their empirical counterparts. The terminal time T is calibrated to be 10, roughly matching an average Compustat firm age of 10 years in our sample. The sample path can be split into two parts when regime shifts occur at the middle $\tau = 5$ between 0 and T, without loss of generality. The volatility of the aggregate ROE is set to match a 0.10, the second moment of the aggregate ROE in the data.[8] The parameters in the third category are not exactly one-to-one mapping to the first moment of a specific item in the data, but are determined by jointly matching to give moments in the data: the average of the aggregate ROE, the average of the aggregate book-to-market ratio, changes in ROE driven by regime shifts, the average of current and future ROE across five quintile portfolios sorted by emissions. Specifically, we estimated the changes in firm-level ROE when firms experience litigations related to environmental issues. As introduced in the model, ξ^i measures a firm i's vulnerability of profitability to regime shifts, so we choose the distribution of ξ^i between 0 and T to match the current and future ROE in five portfolios. Finally, we let the volatility of the environmental cost σ_c equal 0.85 such

[8]The aggregate ROE is the cross-sectional average of firm-level ROE in the data, so we can wash out the firm-specific part.

that the unconditional probability p_τ is equal to 0.43.[9] The volatility of noise parameter η is calibrated to be 0.60, roughly to matching the equity premium 5.71% per annum. Last but not least, we do not use any information about the cross-sectional variation in portfolios return in our calibration procedure. Instead, we compare the cross-sectional portfolio returns between the data and our simulation as our model implication.

[**Place Table 1 about here**]

We evaluate the quantitative performance of the model at the aggregate level. Table 2 shows that our model is broadly consistent with the key empirical features of real quantities and asset price. As shown in the moments of real quantities and asset price, our model produces comparable results to the data.

[**Place Table 2 about here**]

In the following task, we study the pollution premium at the cross-sectional level. For the purpose of cross-sectional analysis, we make use of several data sources at the micro-level, including (1) firm-level balance sheet data in the Compustat annual files, and (2) monthly stock returns from CRSP. Section 3 provides more details on our data sources and constructions. Specifically, we choose that the distribution of exposures ξ^i to regime shifts between 0 and 2, and simulate $5,000$ firms.[10] In Table 3 we report the average excess returns, book-to-market ratio, current ROE, and future ROE across different β^i, and compare them with the data.

[**Place Table 3 about here**]

We document several cross-sectional implications in terms of average returns and firm characteristics in Table 3. First, our model can quantitatively replicate the pattern in the data by generating the upward sloping of current ROE but the downward sloping of future ROE across five quintile portfolios sorted by emissions, although both the data and our model feature a flat pattern of book-to-market ratio across portfolios. Second, Table 3 shows that our model is able to generate a pollution premium (i.e., the return spread in the high-minus-low portfolio) as sizable as 4.70%, which is comparable to 5.52% we obtain from the data in Section 4.1. The key mechanism to generate the pollution premium is as follows: high emission firms' cash flows are more vulnerable to regime shifts from the weak to strong regulation, so they face higher risk exposures to regime shifts shocks. Hence, investors demand for higher expected returns to hold high emission firms' stocks.

[9]We do not have the prior value for the probability to regime shifts. As the result, it is innocuous to set the probability roughly to be 0.5.

[10]The range of ξ^i implies that the cross-sectional mean is equal to 1.

3 Construction of Emissions

3.1 The Data and Construction

We construct firm-level emissions of the U.S. public companies by collecting plant-level chemical pollutants data from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) database constructed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The database contains detailed information on all U.S. chemical emissions from 1986 to 2014: report year, level of chemical pollutants (pounds), name of chemical categories, location fips code, and company names. The TRI database is a publicly available database operated by EPA since 1986.[11] Concerning for incomplete coverage and measurement errors in the early period, we use the TRI data from 1990 to 2014.

There is an issue worth discussions before we proceed. Unlike accounting reports or corporate taxation, the reported pollutants are self-reported without reasonable verifications from the third party such as auditors and IRS. There is no mechanism of enforcement to inhibit firms from intentionally under-reporting their pollutants, which could undermine the reliability of chemical pollutants data. Therefore, the reported chemical pollutants from the database are inevitably subject to measurement errors.

Our sample consists of firms in the intersection of Compustat, CRSP (Center for Research in Security Prices), the TRI database, and Capital IQ. We obtain accounting data from Compustat and stock data from CRSP. Our sample firms include those with non-missing TRI data and non-missing SIC codes, those with domestic common shares (SHRCD = 10 and 11) trading on NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. We identify firms in our sample involving in litigations from the Key Developments in Capital IQ. Following the literature, we exclude finance firms that have four-digit standard industrial classification (SIC) codes between 6000 and 6999 (finance, insurance, trusts, and real estate sectors) and firms with negative book value of equity. To mitigate backfilling bias, we require firms to be listed on Compustat for two years before including them in our sample. All firm-level variables, except emission measures, are from Compustat, unless otherwise noted. Moreover, we use the life expectancy data provided by the authors of Wang, Schumacher, Levitz, Mokdad, and Murray (2013), county-level unemployment rate and population data, and state-level personal income per

[11] U.S congress passed the Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) in 1986 in response to public concerns for the release of toxic chemicals from several environmental accidents in domestic or overseas. This act entitles residents in their neighborhood to know the source of detrimental chemicals, especially for potential impacts on human health from routes of exposure. It requires a compulsory disclosure from each firm on its chemical releases to the environment with emission exceeding to the amounts of listed toxic substances. Based on the EPCRA, EPA constructs TRI to track and supervise the certain classifications of toxic substances from chemical pollutants to endanger human health and the environment.

capita data from the Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) maintained by Federal Reserve in St. Louis.

Finally, we collect news about firms being involved in litigations from Capital IQ. More specifically, Capital IQ covers information with material impact on the market value of securities, including executive changes, M&A rumors, changes in corporate guidance, delayed filing, SEC inquiries, and litigations. We search these firms' new coverage in capital IQ using the following criteria with keyword phrases: "lawsuit", "litigation", "penalty", and "settlement". We then manually identify these firms involving in litigations related to violations of environmental regulations.

3.2 Measures of Emissions

As mentioned in the introduction to the TRI database, EPA reports level of chemical pollutants at county level in each year. We sum the reported chemical pollutants over all counties reported by a firm in a year to measure the firm-level chemical pollutants in million pounds and then scale it by book equity in million dollars as our first empirical proxy for emission intensity "Simple Emissions". However, using simple summation of chemical pollutants over counties ignores the heterogeneous toxicities of different chemical categories: some chemical categories may be more lethal to human health than others. Therefore, we consider an approach to calculate the toxicity degrees for each chemical category and calculate "Toxicity-adjusted Emissions" by weighting emissions with toxicity degrees. In particular, we run county-year panel regressions for each chemical category at expanding windows: [12]

$$\Delta \text{Life\_Exp}_{it} = a + b^j \times \text{Chem}^j_{it} + \mathbf{X}_{it}\mathbf{b} + \theta_t + c_i + \varepsilon_{it}, \text{ for } j = 1, ..., J, \tag{34}$$

where $\Delta\text{Life\_Exp}_{it}$ is the changes in life expectancies in county i in year t, Chem^j_{it} is the level of chemical pollutants for the category j, and $\mathbf{X}_{it}$ are control variables for economic fundamental, including county-level employment rate, population, and state-level personal income per capita. We also control for the county fixed effects c_i and year fixed effects θ_t. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. We proxy b^j for the toxicity degree for a given chemical category j. A lower estimate of b^j suggests that the category j is more

[12] The first window is 1990 only and is used to estimate the toxicity degrees for 1991. The second window is 1990-1992 for the estimation of toxicity degrees for 1992. Similar procedures follows until 2010. Given the life expectancies data cover to 2010, toxicity degrees from 2011 to 2014 are based on the estimates obtained in 2010.

hazardous to human beings.[13]

The estimation for b^j may result in some outliers coefficients of very negative or very positive numbers, which cannot be used to construct our toxicity-weighted emissions. Thus, in each year, we sort all categories with no-missing and negative estimates into five groups based on the estimated b^j, and then assign a score of 6 to the lowest quintile, 5 to the second lowest quintile, 4 to the third quintile, 3 to the second highest quintile, and 2 to the highest quintile.[14] All chemical pollutants are supposed to have negative impacts on human health; however, owing to the measurement errors and data limitations, we may have positive coefficients for some b^j, or too few observations for the estimation of b^j. We thus assign a score of 1 to those categories. Such score assignment ensures that our weighting is less affected by outliers. Finally, we calculate a firm's "Toxicity-adjusted Emissions" as the weighted sum by multiplying the level of pollutants produced by a firm in a category with the score of that category.

In Panel A of Table IA.1 in the Internet Appendix, we report the summary statistics of all chemical categories and the time-series average of assigned scores based on the estimated coefficient from equation (34). Some chemical categories have higher scores than the other categories. For example, "BIS(TRIBUTYLTIN) OXIDE" is a substance highly concentrating in liver and kidney, and remains unknown for its impact on human health. "3 3'-DIMETHOXYBENZIDINE" is confirmed to trigger cancer based on evidence of experiments on animals. Moreover, physical contact with "TRIBUTYLTIN METHACRYLATE", such as inhalation or ingestion, causes severe injury or even death. In Panel B, we report the companies in our sample with the most toxic chemical pollutants based on the hazardous score in Panel A. Products from these firms are mainly related to agriculture, chemical, energy, food, and steel and coal industries. Agrium, Inc, American Vanguard Corp, and Scotts Mirable-gro Co focus on garden and lawn business and produce chemical fertilizers. Akzo Nobel Nv produces products related to chemical paints and coatings. Albemarle Corp is the leader in the lithium battery market. Needless to mention Dow Chemical and Du Pont, which are two giants with a wide coverage of chemical-related products in the U.S.

[13]There are currently more than 650 chemicals categories reported in the TRI database; however, not all of these categories exist at the commencement of the TRI program. Only 586 chemical categories are available in our sample. Thus, the changes in chemicals categories could cause inconsistency in our estimation of toxicity weights across years. We use both simple emissions and toxicity-adjusted emissions in our empirical analysis to ensure the robustness of our conclusion.

[14]In 1990, given no prior observations, we treat all chemical categories equally by assigning score 1 to all categories.

3.3 Summary Statistics

In addition to simple and toxicity-adjusted emissions, we consider the following variables: the market capitalization (i.e., size), the book-to-market ratio (B/M), investment rate (I/A), asset growth (AG), return on equity (ROE), R&D intensity (R&D/AT), organization capital ratio (OC/AT), and book leverage.

In Table 4 we report pooled summary statistics and correlation between emission measures in year t-1 and other characteristics that are known to the public at the end of June of year t. ME is market capitalization (millions $) at the end of June of year t. book-to-market ratio (B/M) is the ratio of book equity of fiscal year ending in year t-1 to market capitalization at the end of year t-1. Investment rate (I/A) is capital expenditure in fiscal year t-1 divided by lagged total assets at the end of fiscal year t-2. Asset growth (AG) is the change in total assets in fiscal year t-1 divided by lagged total assets. Return on equity (ROE) is income before extraordinary items plus depreciation expenses in fiscal year t-1 scaled by lagged book equity. R&D/AT is the R&D expenses capital[15] divided by total assets in fiscal year t-1. OC/AT is the organization capital divided by total assets in fiscal year t. In Panel A, we report the pooled mean, median, standard deviation (Std), minimum (Min), 25^{th} percentile (P25), medium, 75^{th} percentile (P75), and Maximum (Max). Obs denotes the valid number of observations in each variable. We have total 158,344 firm-year observations with non-missing simple and toxicity-adjusted emissions. The averages of simple emissions and toxicity-adjusted emissions are 0.031 and 0.049, respectively, suggesting that one thousand dollars of book equity are associated with 12.96 to 16.94 million pounds of emissions.

[Place Table 4 about here]

4 Empirical Analysis

In this section, we provide novel empirical evidence for the positive relation between toxic emissions and cross-section of stock returns. We first show that emissions positively predict the cross-sectional expected stock returns in portfolio sorts. Then we provide testable implications to support our model mechanisms. Furthermore, we perform a battery of asset pricing factor tests to show that such a relation is literally unaffected by known return factors for other systematic risks. Finally, we investigate the joint link between emissions and other firm-level characteristics on one hand and future stock returns in the cross-section on the

[15] We follow Chan, Lakonishok, and Sougiannis (2001) to accumulate the R&D expenditures over the most recent five fiscal years at a 20% depreciation rate.

other using Fama and MacBeth (1973) regressions as a valid cross-check for the positive relation between emissions and stock returns.

4.1 The Pollution Premium and Firm Characteristics

To investigate the link between simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions and future stock returns in the cross-section, we construct five portfolios sorted on the firms's current simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions and report the portfolio's post-formation average stock returns. We construct the simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions at an annual frequency as described in Section 3. At the end of June of year t from 1992 to 2015, we rank firms by simple emissions (toxicity-adjusted emissions) relative to their industry peers and construct portfolios as follows. At the end of every June from 1992 to 2015, we sort all NYSE[16] firms with positive simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions in year t-1 into five groups from low to high within the corresponding 48 industries according to Fama and French (1997). As a result, we have industry-specific, NYSE-based breaking points for quintile portfolios in every June. Then, we assign all other non-NYSE firms with positive simple emissions (toxicity-adjusted emissions) in year t-1 into these portfolios. Thus, the low (high) portfolio contains firms with the lowest (highest) emissions in each industry. To examine the emission-return relation, we form a high-minus-low portfolio that takes a long position in the high emission portfolio and a short position in the low emission portfolio.

After forming the six portfolios (from low to high and high-minus-low), we calculate the value-weighted monthly returns on these portfolios over the next twelve months (July in year t to June in year t+1). In Panel A (Panel B) of Table 5, the top row presents the *annualized* average excess stock returns (E[R]-R_f, in excess of the risk free-rate), standard deviations, and Sharpe ratios of the five portfolios sorted on simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions. This table shows that, consistent with the model, the firm's emissions forecast stock returns. Firms with currently high emissions earn subsequently lower returns on average than firms with currently high emissions. The difference in returns is economically large and statistically significant.

In both Panels A and B, we find that the average excess returns on the first five portfolios strictly increase with simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions. From low to high quintiles, the average excess returns are 7.31%, 7.82%, 7.99%, 8.46%, and 12.84%, respectively. In addition, the average excess return on the high-minus-low portfolio is 5.52% with statistical significance at the 1% level. In Panel B, the average excess return from the low portfolio to

[16]Unlike the Compustat-CRSP merged sample, more than one third of firms in our sample are NYSE-listed firms because we require non-missing and non-zero emission data. Nevertheless, sorting by NYSE breaking points reasonably results in evenly distributed number of firms in five portfolios (see Table 5).

the high portfolios are 6.90%, 8.31%, 7.99%, 7.89%, and 12.77%, respectively. The average excess returns on the high-minus-low portfolio is 5.87% with statistical significance at the 1% level. The average return spread (i.e., the average return on the high-minus-low portfolio) is more than 3 standard errors from zero. Across the two sets of average returns, the Sharpe ratio of the portfolio of firms with high simple emissions (toxicity-adjusted emissions) is more than 1.7 (1.8) times larger than the Sharpe ratio of the portfolio of firms with low simple emissions (toxicity-adjusted emissions).

[**Place Table 5 about here**]

We then examine how the time-series pattern of the returns on the high-minus-low portfolio, which is our proxy for pollution premium. Figure 1 plots the cumulative returns of the high-minus-low portfolio from July of 1992 to December of 2015. The portfolio's cumulative returns reveal a clear steady upward trend. While there are some drops in the cumulative returns, they do not overlap with economic recessions (denoted by the shaded areas). As a result, the positive emission-return relation we find appears to be a fairly persistent pattern.

A natural concern for the measure of simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions is whether the simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions merely captured by other firm characteristics known to predict cross-sectional stock returns. Table 6 reports firm characteristics across quintile portfolios sorted on simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions. There are small dispersions for size, book-to-market, and investment rate. From low to high quintile portfolio, we observe upward sloping patterns in profitability (ROE), R&D intensity, and leverage, but downward sloping patterns in asset growth and organization capital ratio.

[**Place Table 6 about here**]

4.2 Further Tests for Model Assumptions and Implications

We provide direct empirical evidence to support our model assumption on firms' profitability, and justify that firms with high emissions face high probabilities to trigger litigations through which negatively affect those firms' profitability. Moreover, we show test results consistent with our model predictions. Specifically, we measure the perceived possibility of policy regime shift shocks using the log difference (i.e., the growth rate) of the total number of firms that report their toxic emissions, temperature, and rainfalls.[17] These three growth rates reflect the perceived likelihood for the changes in the government's perceived environmental cost that could reshape the government's belief to the policy regime.

[17] The use of temperature and rainfalls is motivated by Bansal, Kiku, and Ochoa (2017). These data are collected from The World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal.

4.2.1 Future Profitability

In our model, firms' profitability drops when regulation tightens, as shown in equation (2). To test this model assumption, we focus on simple emissions and use three measures of perceived probability of policy regime shifts "Shocks". The specification denotes as follows

$$ROE_{i,t+5} = a + b_1 \times Emissions_{i,t} + b_2 \times Shocks_t + b_3 \times Emissions_{i,t} \cdot Shocks_t + c \times Controls_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t}, \tag{35}$$

where $ROE_{i,t+5}$ is firm i's ROE in $t+5$, $Emissions_{i,t}$ denotes firm i's simple or toxicity-adjusted emissions in year t, and $Shocks_t$ denotes one of the three measures for the perceived probability of shocks in year t: "Disclosure", "Temperature", and "Rainfalls" in the column label. We controls for firm's fundamentals, including size, book-to-market ratio (B/M), investment rate (I/A), asset growth (AG), return on equity (ROE), R&D intensity (R&D/AT), organization capital ratio (OC/AT), and book leverage in year t and industry fixed effect. Standard errors are clustered at firm-level.

[Place Table 7 about here]

We find that, consistent with our model, the estimated coefficients for the interaction term $\hat{b}_3$ are negatively significant across different measures of signal shocks. On the other hand, the estimated coefficients $\hat{b}_1$ and $\hat{b}_2$ are insignificantly different from zero when we control for the interaction term. Our interpretation for this pattern is that all firms' profits are subject to negative exposures to policy regime shocks.However, different firms have different exposures. The negatively significant coefficient $\hat{b}_3$ suggests that firms with higher toxic emissions experience more declines in their profitability when the policy regime shifts. Overall, we obtain robust and consistent results that policy regime shifts hurt firms' future profitability.

4.2.2 Future Litigations Related to Environmental Issues

This subsection we justify the finding in the previous subsection and show that high emission firms are subject to more environmental litigation probabilities when the policy regime shifts. We use firm-level litigation information, including firm's disclosure of material information about legal authority and enforcement or lawsuits relevant to environmental issues from Capital IQ, as a proxy of the consequences of policy regime shifts.[18] We test this

[18] In our model, the implied regime shift is irreversible and occurs once only. However, policy regime shifts in reality might occur from time to time.

prediction by estimating

$$N_{i,t+5} = a + b_1 \times Emissions_{i,t} + c \times Controls_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t}, \tag{36}$$

where $N_{i,t+5}$ refers to firm i's future litigation status, which is defined as a binary variable whether a firm involves in litigations in the future five years or defined as a count variable as the total involved litigations in the future five years. Since the first measure is a binary we estimate equation (36) using a Probit regression; since the second is a count variable, we estimate equation (36) using a Poisson count and negative binomial regression, respectively. We report the estimated coefficients in Table 8.

[Place Table 8 about here]

We find that simple emissions in all predictive regressions are positively significant to predict future litigations in the left panel of Table 8. Similar result are shown from the predictive regressions by toxicity-adjusted emissions in the right panel of Table 8. Therefore, our empirical evidence confirms that high emission firms will be involved in more environmental litigations from strong regulation regime when the policy regime shifts.

4.2.3 Realized Stock Returns

In this subsection we show results consistent with Proposition 5 and Corollary 2. In our model, realized stock returns decrease with the policy regime shift shocks, as shown in equation (27). More significant for model implications, however, is that high emission firms carry more negative exposures to the policy regime shift shocks. To support these model implications, we explore the relation between realized stock returns and three measures for the probability of regime shifts ("Shocks") as defined earlier.

$$R_{i,t} - R_{f,t} = a + b_1 \times Emissions_{i,t} + b_2 \times Shocks_t + b_3 \times Emissions_{i,t} \cdot Shocks_t + c \times Controls_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t}, \tag{37}$$

where $R_{i,t} - R_{f,t}$ is firm i's stock return in calendar year t, $Emissions_{i,t}$ denotes firm i's simple or toxicity-adjusted emissions in year t, and $Shocks_t$ denotes the perceived probability of shocks in year t. We estimate the above equation via Fama-Macbeth regression and report the estimated coefficients, along with Newey-West standard errors in Table 9.

[Place Table 9 about here]

Table 9 shows that the estimated coefficients of $\hat{b}_3$ are all negatively significant across different specifications, consistent with Proposition 5 and Corollary 2. The negatively significant coefficient $\hat{b}_3$ suggests that high emission firms' market value decreases more than low emission firms' when the policy regime shifts. As a consequence, we observe drops in firms' realized stock returns.

4.3 Asset Pricing Factor Tests

We also investigate the extent to which the variation in the average returns of the emission-sorted portfolios can be explained by exposure to standard risk factors proposed by the Fama and French (2015) five-factor model or the Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2015) q-factor model. [19]

To test the standard risk factor models, we preform time-series regressions of emissions sorted portfolios' excess returns on the Fama and French (2015) five-factor model (the market factor-MKT, the size factor-SMB, the value factor-HML, the profitability factor-RMW, and the investment factor-CMA) in Panel A and on the Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2015) q-factor model (the market factor-MKT, the size factor-SMB, the investment factor-I/A, and the profitability factor-ROE) in Panel B, respectively. Such time-series regressions enable us to estimate the betas (i.e., risk exposures) of each portfolio's excess return on various risk factors and to estimate each portfolio's risk-adjusted return (i.e., alphas in %). We annualize the excess returns and alphas in Table 10.

[Place Table 10 about here]

Table 10 suggest the following. First, the risk-adjusted returns (intercepts) of the simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions sorted high-minus-low portfolio remain large and significant, ranging from 5.25 (5.30)% for the Fama and French (2015) five-factor model in Panel A to 5.06 (5.15)% for the Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2015) q-factor model in Panel B, and these intercepts are above 3 standard errors away from zero, as reported in the t-statistics far above 1% statistical significant level. Second, the alpha implied by the Fama-French five-factor model is slightly higher than the the simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions spread (i.e., the return on the high-minus-low portfolio) in the univariate sorting (Table 5), while the alpha implied by HXZ q-factor model remains comparable to the long-short portfolio sorted on simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions. Third, the return on the high-minus-low portfolio has insignificantly negative betas with respect to the Fama and French (2015) five factors or to the Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2015) q factors. The high-minus-low portfolio based on simple emissions presents negative loadings on market, size for Fama-French five-factor model (Panel

[19]The Fama and French factors are downloaded from Kenneth French's data library (`http://mba.tuck.dartmouth.edu/pages/faculty/ken.french/data_library.html`). We thank Kewei Hou, Chen Xue, and Lu Zhang for kindly sharing the Hou, Xue, and Zhang factors.

A) and HXZ q-factor model (Panel B). In summary, results from asset pricing tests in Table 10 suggest that the cross-sectional return spread across portfolios sorted on simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions cannot be explained by either the Fama and French (2015) five-factor or the HXZ q-factor model (Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2015)). Taking together, common risk factors cannot explain the higher returns associated with pollution. In the next section, we go beyond factor regressions and control for multiple characteristics simultaneously by running cross-sectional regressions.

4.4 Cross-Sectional Return Predictability Regressions

For robustness, we also investigate the predictive ability of emissions for the cross-sectional stock returns using Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regressions (Fama and MacBeth (1973)). This analysis allows us to control for an extensive list of firm characteristics that predict stock returns and to verify whether the positive emission-return relation is driven by other known predictors at the firm level. This approach is better than the portfolio tests as the latter requires the specification of breaking points to sort the firms into portfolios and the selection of the number of portfolios. Also, it is difficult to include multiple sorting variables with unique information about future stock returns using a portfolio approach. Thus, Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regressions provide a cross-check.

We run standard firm-level Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regressions to predict stock returns using the lagged firm-level emissions after controlling for other characteristics. The specification of regression is as follows:

$$R_{i,t+1} - R_{f,t+1} = a + b \times Emissions_{i,t} + \gamma \times Controls_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{it}. \tag{38}$$

Following Fama and French (1992), for each month from July of year t to June of year t+1, we regress monthly returns of individual stock returns (annualized by multiplying 12) on emissions of year t-1, different sets of control variables that are known by the end of June of year t, and industry fixed effects. Control variables include the natural logarithm of market capitalization at the end of each June (Size), the natural logarithm of book-to-market ratio (B/M), investment rate (I/A), asset growth (AG), return on equity (ROE), R&D intensity (R&D/AT), organization capital ratio (OC/AT), book leverage (Leverage), and industry dummies based on Fama and French (1997) 48 industry classifications. All independent variables are normalized to zero mean and one standard deviation after winsorization at the 1th and 99th percentile to reduce the impact of outliers, and adjusted for standard errors by using Newey-West adjustment.

[Place Table 11 about here]

Table 11 reports the results from cross-sectional regressions performed at a monthly frequency. The reported coefficient is the average slope from monthly regressions and the corresponding t-statistics is the average slope divided by its time-series standard error. We annualize the slopes and standard errors in Table 11.

The results of Fama-Macbeth regression are consistent with the results of portfolio sorted on emissions. In Specification 1 (3), simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions significantly and positively predicts future stock returns with a slope coefficient of 7.18 (6.80), which is 2.55 (2.66) standard errors from zero. It implies that one standard deviation increase in emissions leads to a significant increase of 7.18 (6.80)% in the annualized stock return. The difference in average simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions between firms in the top and bottom quintile is around 0.68 (0.69) standard deviations. The coefficient in Column 1 (3) implies a difference in the annualized return to 4.93 (4.72)%, which is slightly lower than the high-minus-low portfolio return of 5.52 (5.87)% reported in Table 5. The Fama-Macbath regressions suggest that emissions positively predicts average returns. Such a regression weighs each observation equally, and thus puts substantially weight on the small firms. However, our finding for the pollution premium is mainly based on value-weighted rather than equal-weighted portfolios. Therefore, the difference between valued- and equal-weighted portfolios reflects on the discrepancy between the implied return from the Fama-Macbath regression and the valued-weighted portfolio return.

From the Specification 2 (4), simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions positively predict stock returns with statistically significant slope coefficients when we further control for size, book-to-market ratio, investment rate, asset growth, ROE, R&D intensity, organizational capital ratio, and leverage. It worth noting that in the Specification 2 (4), the slope of simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions remains positive and significant after we include all the regressors. Overall, Table 11 suggests that the positive emission-return relation cannot be attributed to other known predictors and that simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions have an unique return predictive power.

5 Conclusion

The awareness of environmental protection has surged over the past decades. This paper investigates the implications of pollution on the cross-section of stock returns. We use chemical emissions reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to measure firms' toxic release every year. A long-short portfolio constructed from firms with high versus low toxic emission intensity relative to their industry peers generates an average excess return of around 5.70% per year. The return spread cannot be explained by existing risk factors, including Fama-French five-factor model (Fama and French (2015)) and HXZ q factor model (Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2015)). Fama and MacBeth (1973) regressions provide a valid cross-check for the positive relation between toxic emissions and stock returns. We also find a negative relation between toxic emissions and future profitability measured by ROE.

To explain our empirical finding of a pollution premium, we develop a general equilibrium asset pricing model in which firms' cash flows face the uncertainty of regime shifts in emission regulation policy. In our model, a government (social planer) makes an optimal decision between a strong or weak emission regulation regime by maximizing investor's welfare based on such a trade-off, as a social planner would do. In particular, we find that it is optimal for the government to replace a weak regulation regime by a strong one if the pollution cost is perceived to be sufficiently higher. Since high emission ("dirty") firms' profitability are more negatively affected than that of the low emission ("clean") firms upon a regime shift from weak to strong regulation, high emission ("dirty") firms is more exposed to the regulation regime shift risk and thus earn higher average excess returns as risk premia.

Further empirical analyses provide supportive evidence to our model assumptions and implications. First, all firms' future profits decrease with the perceived probability of policy regime shifts and high emission firms suffer more. Second, we verify the channel for the reduced profitability by showing that high emission firms are involved in more environmental litigations when the policy regime shifts. Last and most importantly, we show that high emission firms' market value drops significantly when the policy regime shifts.

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Figure 1. Calendar-Time Cumulative Returns of the High-minus-Low Portfolios

Cumulative returns are computed for the high-minus-low portfolios sorted by simple and toxicity-adjusted emissions. We plot the time-series of these cumulative returns. The shaded bands are labeled as recession periods according to NBER recession dates. The sample period is July 1992-Dec 2015.

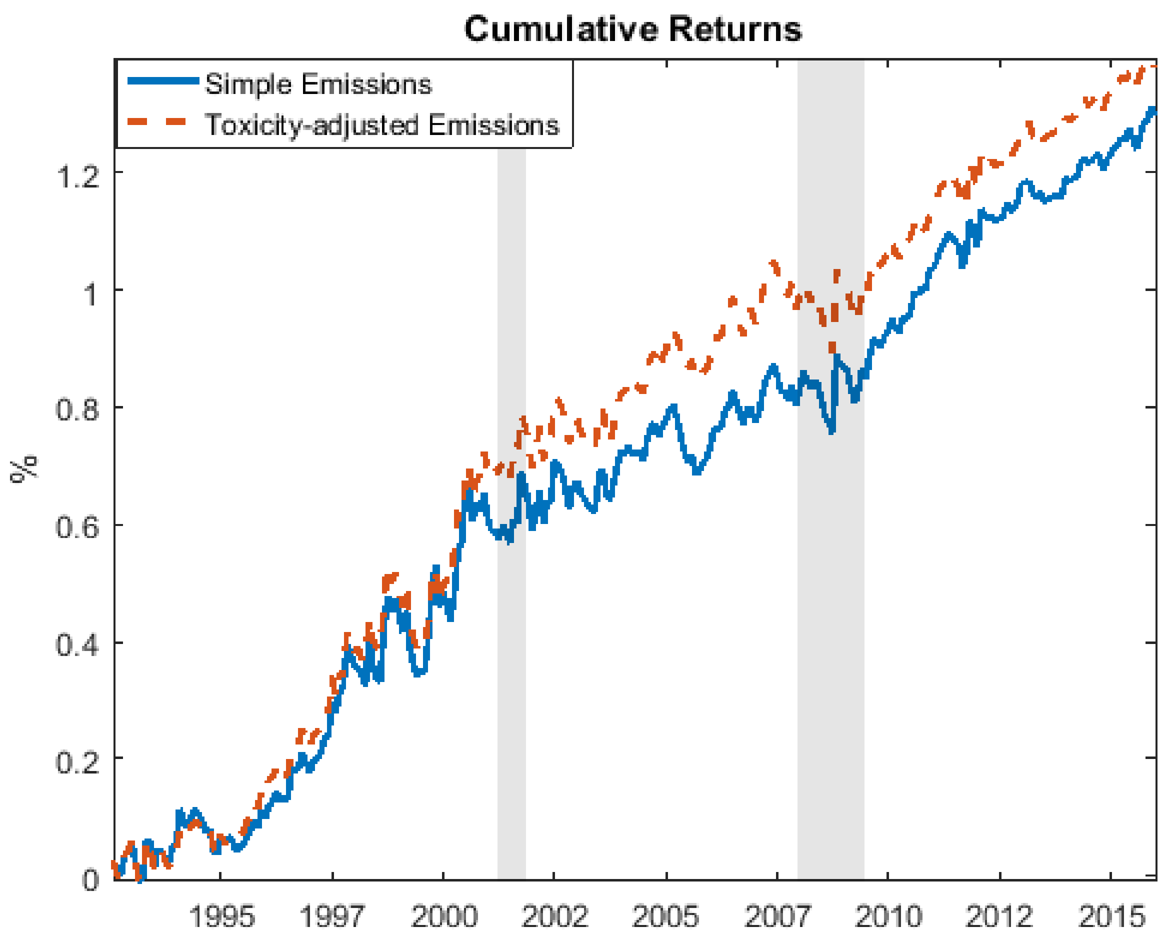

Table 1. Parameter Choices

This table reports the parameter values used in the simulations. The parameters are: regime shifts uncertainty σ_c in equation (5), volatility of noise η in equation (6), μ, σ, and σ_I from equation (1), final date T, time τ of the policy decision, and risk aversion γ. σ_c and η are chosen to equate the real quantities and equity premium. All variables except for γ are reported on an annual basis.

σ_c	η	μ	σ	σ_I	T	τ	γ	g^{W}	g^{S}
0.95	0.60	0.20	0.10	0.05	10	5	2	0.02	-0.06

Table 2. Aggregate Moments

This table reports aggregate quantities (Panel A) and asset price (Panel B) in the model and data. Aggregate quantities refer to aggregate ROE and book-to-market ratio, and aggregate asset price refers to the equity premium in annual frequency.

	Data	**Model**
Panel A: Real Quantities		
ROE	0.23	0.22
B/M	0.38	0.40
Panel B: Asset Price		
$E[R_m]-R_f$ (%)	5.71	4.70

Table 3. Portfolios, Firm Characteristics, and Model Comparison

This table reports time-series averages of the cross-sectional averages of firm characteristics across five portfolios sorted on emissions. Panel A reports the five quintile portfolio sorted from the data, as mentioned in Section 4.1. Panel B reports five quintile portfolios sorted from the simulation. All returns are annualized.

Variables	**L**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**H**	**H-L**
			Panel A: Data			
$E[R]\text{-}R_f$ (%)	7.31	7.82	7.99	8.46	12.84	5.52
ROE	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.27	0.23	
ROE_{t+5}	0.35	0.19	0.25	0.20	0.17	
			Panel B: Model			
$E[R]\text{-}R_f$ (%)	2.51	3.57	4.68	5.90	7.21	4.70
ROE	0.20	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.24	
ROE_{t+5}	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.15	

Table 4: Summary Statistics

This table presents summary statistics and correlation matrix for the firm-year-month sample. Simple emissions are measured as the simple summations of chemical pollutants over counties in year t-1, and then divided by book value of equity at the end of fiscal year t-1 at firm-year level. Toxicity-adjusted emissions are measured as the hazardous-weighted summation of chemical pollutants over counties in year t, and then divided by book value of equity at the end of fiscal year t-1 at firm-year level. ME is market capitalization (millions \$) at the end of June of year t. B/M is the ratio of book equity of fiscal year ending in year t-1 to market capitalization at the end of year t-1. I/A is capital expenditure (item CAPX) dividend by lagged total assets at the end of fiscal year t-2. Asset growth (AG) is the change in total assets in year t-1 divided by lagged total assets. Return on equity (ROE) is income before extraordinary items plus interest expenses in year t-1 scaled by lagged book equity. R&D/AT is the summation of R&D expenses by inventory method over the previous five years divided by lagged total assets. OC/AT is the summation of general administrative expenses by inventory method over the previous five fiscal years divided by lagged total assets. We report the pooled mean, median, standard deviation (Std), minimum (Min), 25^{th} percentile (P25), medium, 75^{th} percentile (P75), and Maximum (Max). Obs denotes the valid number of observations in each variable. The sample period is 1991 - 2014.

Summary Statistics										
	Simple Emissions	Toxicity-adjusted Emissions	ME	B/M	I/A	AG	ROE	R&D/AT	OC/AT	Leverage
Mean	12.96	16.94	98,146.06	0.38	0.06	1.11	0.23	0.10	0.49	0.36
Std	55.75	53.02	27,931.47	0.64	0.06	0.39	2.17	0.11	0.42	0.22
Min	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.16	-126.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
P25	0.00	0.00	309.85	0.33	0.03	0.99	0.05	0.00	0.23	0.20
Median	0.83	1.36	1,261.27	0.52	0.05	1.06	0.11	0.03	0.44	0.35
P75	4.60	7.72	4,820.41	0.8	0.08	1.15	0.17	0.08	0.71	0.50
Max	230.06	277.95	524,351.6	24.75	1.83	12.89	70.38	3.49	5.06	1.00
Obs	158,344	158,344	141,397	141,284	155,516	156,813	158,291	158,344	158,344	158,098

Table 5: Portfolios Sorted on Emissions

This table shows asset pricing test for five portfolios sorted on simple emissions portfolios (Panel A) and on toxicity-adjusted emissions portfolios (Panel B) relative to their industry peers, where we use the Fama-French 48 industry classifications and rebalence portfolios at the end of every June. The results are used monthly data, where the sample period is from July 1992 to December 2015 and excludes financial industries from the analysis. We report average excess returns over the risk-free rate E[R]-R_f, standard deviations Std, and Sharpe ratios SR across five portfolios in Panel A and Panel B. Standard errors are estimated by using Newey-West correction. We include t-statistics in parentheses and annualize portfolio returns by multiplying 12. All portfolios returns correspond to value-weighted returns by firm market capitalization. All returns, standard deviations, and Sharpe ratios have been annualized.

Variables	**L**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**H**	**H-L**
	Panel A: Simple Emissions					
E[R]-R_f (%)	7.31	7.82	7.99	8.46	12.84	5.52
[t]	2.46	2.29	2.72	2.51	4.13	3.18
Std (%)	14.17	15.97	13.55	15.29	14.48	9.73
SR	0.52	0.49	0.59	0.55	0.89	0.57
	Panel B: Toxicity-adjusted Emissions					
E[R]-R_f (%)	6.90	8.31	7.99	7.89	12.77	5.87
[t]	2.34	2.44	2.73	2.43	4.10	3.24
Std (%)	14.16	15.97	13.71	15.01	14.49	9.23
SR	0.49	0.52	0.58	0.53	0.88	0.64

Table 6. Firm Characteristics

This table reports summary statistics for five simple emissions portfolios (Panel A), and five toxicity-adjusted emissions portfolios (Panel B). Simple emissions (Emissions) are measured as the simple summations of chemical pollutants over counties, and then divided by book value of equity at the end of fiscal year t-1 at firm-year level. Toxicity-adjusted emissions (Emissions_adj) are measured as the hazardous-weighted summation of chemical pollutants over counties, and then divided by book value of equity at the end of fiscal year t-1 at firm-year level. Variables of portfolio characteristics are described in Table **??**. Standard errors are estimated using Newey-West adjustment. ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% level, respectively. The sample period is July 1992 - Dec 2015.

	Simple Emissions					**Toxicity-adjusted Emissions**				
Variables	**L**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**H**	**L**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**H**
Emissions	0.06	0.43	1.54	5.85	37.80	0.06	0.42	1.69	5.87	36.84
Log ME	10.99	11.58	11.72	10.76	10.77	11.00	11.55	11.72	10.73	10.76
B/M	0.40	0.37	0.36	0.39	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.35	0.39	0.39
I/A	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.06
AG	1.13	1.11	1.11	1.10	1.09	1.13	1.11	1.11	1.10	1.09
ROE	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.27	0.23	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.26	0.24
R&D/AT	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.12	0.12
O/AT	0.56	0.50	0.48	0.56	0.52	0.56	0.50	0.46	0.59	0.51
Leverage	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.33	0.40	0.36	0.37	0.34	0.34	0.40
Numbers	112	100	99	100	92	113	99	99	100	92

Table 7: Predicative Regressions - Future Profitability

This table reports the of panel regressions of future profitability on their emissions, perceived probabiltiy of shocks, and their interactions, together with other firm characteristics. The sample period is from 1992 to 2014 and excludes financial industries from the analysis. We control for industry fixed effects based on Fama-French 48 industry classifications. We measure the perceived possibility of policy regime shift shocks ("Shocks") using the log difference (i.e., the growth rate) of the total number of firms that report their toxic emissions ("Disclosure"), temperatures, and rainfalls. All independent variables are normalized to zero mean and one standard deviation after winsorization at the 1th and 99th percentile of their empirical distribution. t-statistics are clustered by firms with ***, **, * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% levels.

Variables	**Disclosure**	**Temperature**	**Rainfalls**
Emissions	-0.11***	0.01	-0.01
[t]	-5.53	0.59	-0.91
Shocks	-0.00	0.02	0.05***
[t]	-0.06	1.37	3.78
Emissions x Shocks	-0.12***	-0.10***	-0.03***
[t]	-6.25	-5.59	-2.68
Log ME	0.17***	0.17***	0.17***
[t]	10.34	10.39	10.38
Log B/M	-0.06***	-0.05***	-0.05***
[t]	-3.44	-2.86	-2.83
I/K	-0.04***	-0.04***	-0.04***
[t]	-2.84	-2.97	-2.71
AG	-0.05***	-0.04***	-0.04***
[t]	-3.35	-3.18	-3.19
ROE	0.13***	0.12***	0.12***
[t]	8.50	8.04	8.05
R&D / AT	-0.05***	-0.04***	-0.04***
[t]	-3.19	-2.69	-2.72
O / AT	0.18***	0.17***	0.17***
[t]	10.71	10.17	10.14
Leverage	0.04***	0.04***	0.04***
[t]	3.04	2.83	2.99
Observations	6,845	6,762	6,762
Industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 8: Predicative Regressions - Future Litigations

This table reports the predictive relation between future litigations and simple (toxicity-adjusted) emissions. The sample period is from 2003 to 2014 and excludes financial industries from the analysis. We reports coefficients estimated from Probit, Poinsson count, and negative binomial regression. We also control for time fixed effects and industry fixed effects based on Fama-French 48 industry classifications. All independent variables are normalized to zero mean and one standard deviation after winsorization at the 1th and 99th percentile of their empirical distribution. t-statistics are based on standard errors are clustered by firms with ***, **, * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% levels.

	Simple Emissions			Toxicity-adjusted Emissions		
Variables	Probit	NB	Poisson	Probit	NB	Poisson
Emissions	0.19***	0.51***	0.34***	0.18***	0.47***	0.32***
[t]	3.92	2.89	4.12	4.02	2.72	3.81
Log ME	0.80***	2.56***	2.42***	0.80***	2.56***	2.40***
[t]	9.03	10.97	6.94	9.01	11.07	6.86
Log B/M	0.15**	0.46**	0.42**	0.15**	0.46**	0.40**
[t]	2.30	2.31	2.08	2.27	2.29	2.02
I/K	-0.08	-0.42*	-0.20	-0.08	-0.44*	-0.20
[t]	-1.28	-1.76	-1.04	-1.30	-1.81	-0.99
AG	-0.12**	-0.22*	-0.29*	-0.12**	-0.22*	-0.29*
[t]	-2.21	-1.83	-1.83	-2.20	-1.85	-1.87
ROE	0.01	0.37*	0.20	0.02	0.38*	0.19*
[t]	0.24	1.91	1.61	0.30	1.92	1.65
R&D/AT	-0.00	-0.39	0.12	-0.00	-0.40	0.12
[t]	-0.00	-0.92	0.25	-0.01	-0.95	0.25
OC/AT	-0.01	-0.16	0.08	-0.01	-0.16	0.08
[t]	-0.07	-0.54	0.25	-0.09	-0.57	0.23
Leverage	-0.08	-0.38	-0.17	-0.09	-0.37	-0.15
[t]	-1.19	-1.39	-0.67	-1.23	-1.36	-0.60
Observations	5,058	5,978	5,978	5,058	5,978	5,978
Industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 9: Return Sensitivities to Perceived Probability of Shocks

This table reports the of Fama-Macbeth regressions of individual stock excess returns on their emissions and other firm characteristics. The sample period is 1993 to 2015 and excludes financial industries from the analysis. For each month from January of year t to December of year t, we compound monthly excess returns and then regress compounded excess returns of individual stock on simple emissions, perceived probability of shocks, and their interaction, together with different sets of variables that are known by the end of December of year t-1, and control for industry fixed effects based on Fama-French 48 industry classifications. We present the time-series average and heteroscedasticity-robust t-statistics of the slopes (i.e., coefficients) estimated from the annual cross-sectional regressions for different model specifications. All independent variables are normalized to zero mean and one standard deviation after winsorization at the 1th and 99th percentile of their empirical distribution. We measure the perceived possibility of policy regime shift shocks ("Shocks") using the log difference (i.e., the growth rate) of the total number of firms that report their toxic emissions ("Disclosure"), temperature, and rainfalls. Returns are annualized. t-statistics are estimated using Newey-West correction with ***, **, * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% levels.

Variables	**Disclosure**	**Temperature**	**Rainfalls**
Emissions	0.17	0.48***	0.38**
[t]	0.98	2.89	2.42
Shocks	-0.98***	-0.09	-0.27**
[t]	-7.71	-0.72	-2.16
Emissions x Shocks	-2.12**	-0.42**	-0.25*
[t]	-2.28	-2.47	-1.87
Log ME	0.04	0.03	0.05
[t]	0.26	0.17	0.29
Log B/M	1.25***	1.28***	1.30***
[t]	7.47	7.56	7.67
I/K	-0.09	-0.16	-0.16
[t]	-0.67	-1.12	-1.12
AG	-0.56***	-0.60***	-0.61***
[t]	-3.84	-4.04	-4.10
ROE	-0.20	-0.18	-0.17
[t]	-1.29	-1.23	-1.19
R&D/AT	0.16	0.22	0.22
[t]	0.95	1.30	1.29
OC/AT	0.56***	0.55***	0.55***
[t]	3.22	3.15	3.13
Leverage	0.46***	0.46***	0.46***
[t]	3.28	3.28	3.33
Observations	9,851	9,669	9,669
Industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 10: Asset Pricing Factor Tests

This table shows asset pricing test for five portfolios sorted on emissions relative to their industry peers, where we use the Fama-French 48 industry classifications and rebalence portfolios at the end of every June. The results are used monthly data, where the sample period is from July 1992 to December 2015 and excludes financial industries from the analysis. In Panel A we report the portfolio alphas and betas by the Fama-French five-factor model, including MKT, SMB, HML, RMW, and CMA factors. In panel B we report portfolio alphas and betas by the HXZ q-factor model, including MKT, SMB, I/A, and ROE factors. Data on the Fama-French five-factor model are from Kenneth French's website. Data on I/A and ROE factor are provided by Kewei Hou, Chen Xue, and Lu Zhang. Standard errors are estimated by using Newey-West correction with ***, **, and * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% levels. We include t-statistics and annualize the portfolio alphas by multiplying 12. All portfolios returns correspond to value-weighted returns by firm market capitalization. The sample period is July 1992 - Dec 2015.

	Simple Emissions Sorted Portfolios						Toxicity-adjusted Emissions Sorted Portfolios					
Variables	**L**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**H**	**H-L**	**L**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**H**	**H-L**
Panel A: Fama-French Five-factor Model												
α_{FF5}	-1.36	0.15	1.11	-2.29	3.89**	5.25***	-1.54	0.48	0.42	-1.97	3.75**	5.30***
[t]	-0.88	0.10	0.76	-1.45	2.27	3.11	-0.98	0.31	0.32	-1.36	2.21	3.09
MKT_Rf	0.94***	1.00***	0.85***	1.06***	0.90***	-0.04	0.94***	1.00***	0.88***	1.02***	0.90***	-0.03
[t]	25.01	32.60	27.55	25.96	21.45	-0.71	25.65	29.93	28.26	30.62	22.08	-0.63
SMB	-0.07	-0.13**	-0.23***	-0.09*	-0.09	-0.02	-0.09**	-0.12**	-0.23***	-0.11*	-0.08	0.01
[t]	-1.44	-2.55	-4.80	-1.77	-1.49	-0.27	-2.01	-2.34	-4.72	-1.79	-1.27	0.20
HML	-0.04	0.06	-0.02	-0.04	0.03	0.06	-0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.05	0.04	0.06
[t]	-0.66	1.09	-0.25	-0.86	0.34	0.82	-0.36	0.49	-0.21	-1.02	0.46	0.75
RMW	0.17*	0.05	0.13**	0.33***	0.24***	0.07	0.16**	0.07	0.17***	0.23**	0.24***	0.09
[t]	1.95	0.75	2.12	3.33	3.20	0.81	2.16	0.83	3.06	2.51	3.31	1.15
CMA	0.36***	0.02	0.17**	0.55***	0.42***	0.06	0.31***	0.07	0.24***	0.50***	0.41***	0.10
[t]	2.74	0.21	2.16	4.46	4.47	0.51	2.65	0.64	3.09	4.53	4.43	0.95
Panel B: HXZ q-factor Model												
α_{HXZ}	-1.06	1.05	0.43	-1.98	4.00**	5.06***	-1.31	1.54	-0.36	-1.66	3.84**	5.15***
[t]	-0.70	0.69	0.31	-1.27	2.22	3.06	-0.82	0.99	-0.30	-1.10	2.15	3.10
MKT_Rf	0.92***	0.98***	0.88***	1.03***	0.89***	-0.04	0.92***	0.97***	0.91***	1.00***	0.89***	-0.03
[t]	24.21	29.05	22.70	27.41	19.82	-0.61	24.86	27.17	24.82	28.82	20.03	-0.59
SMB	-0.07	-0.18***	-0.22***	-0.09*	-0.10*	-0.02	-0.10**	-0.17***	-0.21***	-0.10	-0.09	0.01
[t]	-1.59	-4.09	-4.50	-1.77	-1.83	-0.38	-2.24	-3.71	-4.53	-1.43	-1.58	0.19
I/A	0.33***	0.04	0.19***	0.48***	0.46***	0.13	0.31***	0.04	0.27***	0.42***	0.46***	0.14
[t]	2.94	0.57	2.70	4.38	4.71	1.29	3.00	0.54	3.57	3.94	4.70	1.61
ROE	0.13*	-0.00	0.22***	0.27***	0.20***	0.07	0.12*	0.00	0.27***	0.19***	0.20***	0.08
[t]	1.73	-0.02	4.04	3.26	2.69	0.79	1.78	0.05	5.60	2.60	2.82	1.05

Table 11: Fama-Macbeth Regressions

This table reports the of Fama-Macbeth regressions of individual stock excess returns on their emissions and other firm characteristics. The sample period is July 1992 to December 2015 and excludes financial industries from the analysis. For each month from July of year t to June of year t+1, we regress monthly excess returns of individual stock on simple emissions and toxicity-adjusted emissions, respectively, with different sets of variables that are known by the end of June of year t, and control for industry fixed effects based on Fama-French 48 industry classifications. We present the time-series average and heteroscedasticity-robust t-statistics of the slopes (i.e., coefficients) estimated from the monthly cross-sectional regressions for different model specifications. All independent variables are normalized to zero mean and one standard deviation after winsorization at the 1th and 99th percentile of their empirical distribution. We include t-statistics and annualize individual stock excess returns by multiplying 12. Standard errors are estimated using Newey-West correction with ***, **, * indicate significance at the 1, 5, and 10% levels.

	Simple Emissions		**Toxicity-adjusted Emissions**	
Variables	**(1)**	**(2)**	**(3)**	**(4)**
Emissions	7.18**	9.85***	6.80***	9.48***
[t]	2.55	2.65	2.66	2.83
Log ME		-3.60***		-3.56***
[t]		-4.88		-4.75
Log B/M		0.13		0.15
[t]		0.12		0.14
I/A		-1.33*		-1.33*
[t]		-1.96		-1.96
AG		2.12		2.12
[t]		0.90		0.89
ROE		0.34		0.40
[t]		0.48		0.56
R&D/AT		3.21***		3.22***
[t]		3.42		3.43
OC/AT		0.38		0.37
[t]		0.74		0.72
Leverage		-0.45		-0.43
[t]		-0.44		-0.42
Observations	157,131	138,898	157,131	138,898
Industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 12. Simple Emissions across Fama-French 48 Industries

This table reports summary statistics of the firm-year observations of non-missing emissions (per millions of pounds) across industries, including the pooled mean (Mean), standard deviation (Std), minimum (Min), 25th percentile (Perc25), median (Perc50), 75th percentile (Perc75), and maximum (Max). The emissions are measured as the simple summations of chemical pollutants over counties at firm-year level. Obs denotes the average number of firms with non-missing emissions in each industry. Industries are based on Fama-French 48 industry classifications (FF48), excluding financial industries. The sample period is 1991 - 2014.

FF48	Industry Name	Obs	Mean	Std	Min	Perc25	Medium	Perc75	Max
1	Agriculture	34	0.292	0.476	0.003	0.015	0.176	0.286	2.611
2	Food	686	2.800	14.574	0	0.004	0.142	0.892	250.298
3	Soda	118	0.353	0.566	0	0	0.133	0.258	2.446
4	Beer	120	1.068	1.822	0	0	0.064	1.049	6.078
5	Tobacco	88	1.430	2.049	0	0.032	0.338	2.153	8.534
6	Recreation	153	0.204	0.605	0	0.001	0.013	0.082	3.672
8	Books	82	0.403	0.671	0	0	0.020	0.799	2.301
9	Household	790	8.536	25.299	0	0.047	0.529	5.182	261.204
10	Apparel	86	0.197	0.301	0	0.029	0.092	0.221	1.438
11	Healthcare	36	0.145	0.122	0	0.004	0.16	0.252	0.312
12	Medical Equipment	526	0.539	1.286	0	0.003	0.069	0.361	6.775
13	Drugs	493	7.273	18.983	0	0.026	0.131	3.327	122.074
14	Chemicals	1290	38.941	176.595	0	0.071	1.311	11.221	4433.010
15	Rubber&Plastic Products	365	1.043	1.970	0	0.018	0.109	1.147	15.129
16	Textiles	256	0.370	0.625	0	0.004	0.044	0.571	4.774
17	Construction Materials	1270	7.613	23.917	0	0.021	0.295	3.139	195.889
18	Construction	248	2.463	14.850	0	0.013	0.160	0.706	142.007
19	Steel	1091	13.285	28.648	0	0.108	0.886	9.048	281.487
20	Fabricated Products	200	0.732	1.215	0	0.114	0.252	0.711	6.639
21	Machinery	1427	1.814	6.017	0	0.037	0.227	1.374	95.231
22	Electrical Equipment	644	17.591	55.976	0	0.007	0.113	2.396	341.146
23	Automobiles	987	2.463	7.199	0	0.050	0.240	1.393	78.680
24	Aircraft	354	24.422	94.970	0	0.023	0.138	3.274	620.793
25	Ships	140	1.126	1.288	0	0.091	0.565	1.865	5.544
26	Defense	73	0.814	1.506	0	0.041	0.180	0.497	5.634
27	Precious Metals	66	6.436	18.298	0	0	0.032	0.500	81.536
28	Mines	182	20.996	98.761	0	0	0.102	1.227	719.222
29	Coal	99	0.072	0.191	0	0	0	0.021	1.115
30	Oil	635	37.615	86.372	0	0.017	1.227	31.361	738.604
31	Utilities	975	20.170	45.063	0	0.106	2.967	15.237	413.651
32	Communication	106	2.792	6.486	0	0.041	0.120	1.010	33.286
34	Business Services	414	14.892	51.695	0	0.016	0.076	0.849	294.351
35	Computers	243	0.574	0.986	0	0.01	0.096	0.683	5.749
36	Chips	1463	2.353	14.246	0	0.014	0.139	0.797	221.451
37	Measuring&Control Equipment	372	3.694	13.255	0	0.012	0.086	0.620	89.921
38	Business Supplies	770	21.326	56.912	0	0.048	0.649	19.308	515.35
39	Shipping Containers	321	13.46	30.205	0	0.043	0.806	6.411	145.161
40	Transportation	169	2.254	5.392	0	0.002	0.017	0.591	22.869
41	Wholesale	653	3.299	17.155	0	0.005	0.048	1.206	261.351
42	Retail	294	2.303	8.278	0	0.008	0.044	0.300	76.887
43	Meals	85	7.257	16.357	0	0	0.032	11.31	79.198
48	Other	130	33.379	69.766	0	0.112	1.946	10.224	347.037

Table 13. Transition Matrix: Persistence of Simple and Toxicity-adjusted Emissions

This table presents transition frequency (%) across simple emissions quintiles in Panel A (respectively toxicity-adjusted emissions quintiles in Panel B) from year t to t+1 (column 1 to column 6) and from year t to t+5 (column 7 to column 12). Simple emissions are measured as the simple summations of chemical pollutants of a firm in year t-1, and then divided by book value of equity at the end of fiscal year t-1. Toxicity-adjusted emissions are measured as the hazardous-weighted summation of chemical pollutants of a firm in year t-1, and then divided by book value of equity at the end of fiscal year t-1 at firm-year level. The sample period is July 1992 - Dec 2015.

Panel A: Transition across Quintiles of Simple Emissions

	from year t to year t+1						from year t to year t+5				
	L(t+1)	2(t+1)	3(t+1)	4(t+1)	H(t+1)		L(t+5)	2(t+5)	3(t+5)	4(t+5)	H(t+5)
L(t)	86.32	12.10	1.03	0.50	0.05	L(t)	70.79	22.07	4.24	1.95	0.80
2(t)	14.70	72.16	11.66	1.23	0.25	2(t)	26.30	52.02	16.00	4.90	0.78
3(t)	1.71	15.26	70.18	12.04	0.81	3(t)	9.15	26.64	45.87	15.78	2.56
4(t)	0.83	1.66	16.51	73.47	7.52	4(t)	3.14	6.99	28.99	49.56	11.32
H(t)	0.32	0.31	1.04	10.80	87.53	H(t)	1.68	2.15	5.59	20.44	70.14

Panel B: Transition across Quintiles of Toxicity-adjusted Emissions

	from year t to year t+1						from year t to year t+5				
	L(t+1)	2(t+1)	3(t+1)	4(t+1)	H(t+1)		L(t+5)	2(t+5)	3(t+5)	4(t+5)	H(t+5)
L(t)	85.87	12.35	1.30	0.43	0.05	L(t)	70.45	22.15	4.59	1.96	0.85
2(t)	15.25	70.96	12.39	1.21	0.20	2(t)	26.96	50.18	16.81	5.03	1.02
3(t)	1.68	16.13	68.59	12.72	0.88	3(t)	9.76	26.61	44.57	16.53	2.53
4(t)	0.83	1.90	16.71	71.65	8.90	4(t)	3.07	7.84	29.04	47.93	12.12
H(t)	0.34	0.27	1.14	12.01	86.25	H(t)	1.72	2.28	5.56	21.58	68.87

A Additional Empirical Evidence

In this section, we provide additional empirical evidence on the pollution premium.

A.1 Summary Statistics across Industries

In Table 12, we report the summary statistics of the simple emissions of firms in each industry according to the Fama and French (1997) 48 (FF48) industry classifications. Some industries have more firms reporting to the TRI database, such as the Chemicals industry and the Steel industry. There are comparatively large cross-industry variations in chemical emissions. Specifically, the standard deviation ranges from 176.595 for the Chemicals industry to 0.122 for the Health Care industry. Therefore, to make sure our results are not driven by any particular industry, we control for industry effects as detailed later.

[Place Table 12 about here]

A.2 Transition Matrix

Whether firms' emission intensity is persistent or not is important for our analysis of the emission-return relation. To check the persistence, we sort firms by quintiles of emission measures each year and examine the transition across quintiles over time. We present this analysis in Table 13. The left side of Panel A shows the transition from year t to year t+1, while the right side shows the transition from year t to year t+5. Firms in the top or bottom quintiles of the distribution of simple emissions, the probability of staying in the same quintile in the next year (five years later) is above 85% (70%). Persistence is comparable when we consider toxicity-adjusted emissions in Panel B, where the probability of staying in the same quintile in the next year (five years later) is almost the same as reported in Panel A. The persistent emission intensity is intuitive because firms cannot easily adjust their production designs and processes. More importantly, such persistence has important asset pricing implications: if there is any emission-return relation, it should be attributed to long-lasting fundamental issues rather than transitory effects such as market sentiment or mispricing.

[Place Table 13 about here]

B Model Solution

Timeline

We consider an economy with a finite horizon $[0, T]$. Regime shifts occur at time τ, where $\tau \in (0, T)$, and $\tau+$ denotes the timing of right after regime shifts.

Proof of Lemma 1

From the capital growth equation $dB_t^i = B_t^i d\Pi_t^i$, where the stochastic process of $d\Pi_t^i$ is given by equation (1), we obtain the following expression for firm i's capital at time T:

$$B_T^i = B_\tau^i e^{\left(\mu+\xi^i g-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2-\frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2\right)(T-\tau)+\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)+\sigma_1(Z_T^i-Z_\tau^i)}, \tag{B1}$$

where $g \equiv g^{\mathrm{W}}$ when there is a weak regulation change and $g \equiv g^{\mathrm{S}}$ is there is a strong regulation change. Aggregating across firms, we obtain

$$B_T = \int_0^1 B_T^i di = e^{\left(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2-\frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2\right)(T-\tau)+\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)} \int_0^1 B_\tau^i e^{\xi^i g(T-\tau)+\sigma_1(Z_T^i-Z_\tau^i)} di. \tag{B2}$$

The Law of large numbers implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 B_\tau^i e^{\xi^i g(T-\tau)+\sigma_1(Z_T^i-Z_\tau^i)} di &\rightarrow \mathrm{E}^i\left[B_\tau^i e^{g(T-\tau)+\sigma_1(Z_T^i-Z_\tau^i)}\right] \\ &= e^{g(T-\tau)}\mathrm{E}^i\left[B_\tau^i\right]\mathrm{E}^i\left[e^{\sigma_1(Z_T^i-Z_\tau^i)}\right] \\ &= B_\tau e^{g(T-\tau)+\frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2(T-\tau)}, \end{aligned} \tag{B3}$$

where E^i is the operator of cross-sectional expectation. The second equality of equation (B3) presents the independence of $B_{\tau_n}^i$ and $Z_T^i - Z_\tau^i$. In the last step, the cross-sectional expectation of B_τ^i denotes

$$\mathrm{E}^i\left[B_\tau^i\right] = \int_0^1 B_\tau^i di = B_\tau, \tag{B4}$$

and the expectation of $\mathrm{E}^i\left[e^{\sigma_1(Z_T^i-Z_\tau^i)}\right]$ implies the mean of lognormal distribution.

Proof of Proposition 1

Using the market clearing condition $W_T = B_T$, we can use equation (11) to compute the expected utility at time T conditional on a strict or weak regulation. The expectation is conditional on the government's information set, which includes the realization of the environmental cost.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{S}\right] &= \frac{B_\tau^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} e^{(1-\gamma)\left(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}}-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)(T-\tau)+\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma)^2\sigma^2(T-\tau)} \qquad \text{(B5)}\\
\mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{W}\right] &= \frac{\Phi(C)B_\tau^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} e^{(1-\gamma)\left(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}}-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)(T-\tau)+\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma)^2\sigma^2(T-\tau)}. \qquad \text{(B6)}
\end{aligned}$$

The claim of the proposition follows immediately from the optimality condition

$$\mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{S}\right] > \mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{\Phi(C)W_T^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma}\middle|\mathrm{W}\right]. \qquad \text{(B7)}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{B_\tau^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} e^{(1-\gamma)\left(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}}-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)(T-\tau)+\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma)^2\sigma^2(T-\tau)} > \frac{\Phi(C)B_\tau^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} e^{(1-\gamma)\left(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}}-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)(T-\tau)+\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma)^2\sigma^2(T-\tau)}. \qquad \text{(B8)}$$

We specify the functional form of $\Phi(C)$ as $1+C$, and further rearrange the inequality above to obtain

$$e^{(1-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} < \Phi(C)e^{(1-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)} = (1+e^c)e^{(1-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)} \qquad \text{(B9)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e^{(\gamma-1)(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)} - 1 &< e^c\\
\log\left\{e^{(\gamma-1)(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)} - 1\right\} &< c. \qquad \text{(B10)}
\end{aligned}$$

The threshold for policy regime shifts denotes

$$\underline{c}(\tau) \equiv \log\left\{e^{(\gamma-1)(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)} - 1\right\}. \qquad \text{(B11)}$$

Proof of Corollary 1

We define $n(c; a, b)$ as the p.d.f of a normal distribution with mean a and variance b. The p.d.f conditional on information at time t is given by

$$n(c; \hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}_t^2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n(c; \hat{c}_\tau, \hat{\sigma}_\tau^2) n(\hat{c}_\tau; \hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}_t^2 - \hat{\sigma}_\tau^2) d\hat{c}_\tau. \qquad \text{(B12)}$$

This follows from general properties of the normal distribution. The proof is to note that

$$
\begin{aligned}
c &= c - \hat{c}_\tau + \hat{c}_\tau, && \text{(B13)}\\
c - \hat{c}_\tau &\sim Normal(0, \hat{\sigma}_\tau^2), && \text{(B14)}\\
\hat{c}_\tau &\sim Normal(\hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}_t^2 - \hat{\sigma}_\tau^2), && \text{(B15)}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\hat{c}_\tau$ follows a normal distribution conditional on information at time t. According to the dynamics of posterior mean in equation (8), the recursive expression is given by

$$
\hat{c}_\tau = \hat{c}_t + \int_t^\tau \hat{\sigma}_s^2 \eta^{-1} dZ_s^c. \tag{B16}
$$

Therefore, the conditional expectation based on information at time t denotes

$$
\mathrm{E}_t[\hat{c}_\tau] = \hat{c}_t. \tag{B17}
$$

The variance denotes

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{E}_t[(\hat{c}_\tau - \hat{c}_t)^2] &= \int_t^\tau \left(\hat{\sigma}_s^2 \eta^{-1}\right)^2 ds \\
&= \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sigma_c^2} + \frac{s}{\eta^2}} \Bigg|_t^\tau = \hat{\sigma}_t^2 - \hat{\sigma}_\tau^2. && \text{(B18)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Given the linearity of expectation operator,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{E}_t[c] &= \mathrm{E}_t[(c - \hat{c}_\tau) + \hat{c}_\tau] = \mathrm{E}_t[(c - \hat{c}_\tau)] + \mathrm{E}_t[\hat{c}_\tau] \\
&= \mathrm{E}_t\big[\mathrm{E}_\tau[(c - \hat{c}_\tau)]\big] + \mathrm{E}_t[\hat{c}_\tau] \\
&= 0 + \hat{c}_t \\
&= \hat{c}_t. && \text{(B19)}
\end{aligned}
$$

We can also show that $c - \hat{c}_\tau$ and $\hat{c}_\tau$ are independent when two random variables are uncorrelated. The covariance is defined as

$$
\mathrm{Cov}_t[(c - \hat{c}_\tau), \hat{c}_\tau] = \mathrm{E}_t[(c - \hat{c}_\tau)\hat{c}_\tau] - \mathrm{E}_t[(c - \hat{c}_\tau)]\mathrm{E}_t[\hat{c}_\tau]. \tag{B20}
$$

By using the law of iterated expectation, the first term in the RHS of equation (B20) denotes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{E}_t[(c-\hat{c}_\tau)\hat{c}_\tau] &= \mathrm{E}_t\big[\mathrm{E}_\tau[(c-\hat{c}_\tau)\hat{c}_\tau]\big] \\ &= \mathrm{E}_t\big[\mathrm{E}_\tau[(c-\hat{c}_\tau)]\hat{c}_\tau\big] \\ &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{B21}$$

and the second term shows zero. Therefore, we verify the independence implies $\mathrm{Cov}_t[(c-\hat{c}_\tau),\hat{c}_\tau]=0$. As a result, the variance based on information at time t denotes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Var}_t[c] &= \mathrm{Var}_t[(c-\hat{c}_\tau)+\hat{c}_\tau] = \mathrm{Var}_t[c-\hat{c}_\tau] + \mathrm{Var}_t[\hat{c}_\tau] + 2\ \mathrm{Cov}_t[(c-\hat{c}_\tau),\hat{c}_\tau] \\ &= \hat{\sigma}_\tau^2 + (\hat{\sigma}_t^2 - \hat{\sigma}_\tau^2) + 0 \\ &= \hat{\sigma}_t^2. \end{aligned} \tag{B22}$$

Therefore, c follows a normal distribution condition on information at time t

$$c \sim Normal(\hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}_t^2), \tag{B23}$$

and the probability of regime shifts at τ

$$p_{\tau|t} = 1 - N(\underline{c}(\tau); \hat{c}_t, \hat{\sigma}_t^2). \tag{B24}$$

Proof of Proposition 2

Before the proof of Proposition 2, we need to prove the Lemma below.

Lemma 2. *When policy regime shifts occur at time τ, the market value of each firm i takes one of two values*

$$M^i_{\tau+} = \begin{cases} M^{S,i}_{\tau+} = B^i_\tau e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^S)(T-\tau)} & \textit{if regime shifts} \\ M^{W,i}_{\tau+} = B^i_\tau e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^W)(T-\tau)} & \textit{if regime does not shift,} \end{cases} \tag{B25}$$

where $\tau+$ is the timing right after regime shifts. Unconditionally, firm i's market value denotes

$$M^i_\tau = E_\tau[M^i_{\tau+}] = p_\tau M^{S,i}_{\tau+} + (1-p_\tau) M^{W,i}_{\tau+}. \tag{B26}$$

Proof of Lemma 2

The state price density is $\pi_t = \frac{1}{\kappa}\mathrm{E}_t\big[B_T^{-\gamma}\big]$. Its value, when regime shifts occur at time τ, is given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
\pi_{\tau+} &= \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[e^{-\gamma(\mu+g-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)-\gamma\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)}\right] \\
&= \begin{cases} \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[e^{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}}-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)-\gamma\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)}\right] & \text{if regime shifts} \\ \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[e^{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}}-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)-\gamma\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)}\right] & \text{if regime does not shift} \end{cases} \\
&= \begin{cases} \pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} = \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}e^{\left\{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(T-\tau)} & \text{if regime shifts} \\ \pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}} = \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}e^{\left\{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(T-\tau)} & \text{if regime does not shift} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}
\tag{B27}
$$

where we use the definition of equation (11). We can infer the state price density at time τ

$$
\pi_\tau = \mathrm{E}_\tau[\pi_{\tau+}] = p_\tau\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} + (1-p_\tau)\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}, \tag{B28}
$$

where p_τ is the probability of a policy change from the perspective of investor. The market value of stock i is given by

$$
M_t^i = \mathrm{E}_t\left[\frac{\pi_T}{\pi_t}B_T^i\right]. \tag{B29}
$$

After policy regime shifts at time τ, using the results of equation (33), we obtain

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\pi_T B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}] &= \kappa^{-1}\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[B_T^{-\gamma}B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}] \\
&= \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}B_\tau^i\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[e^{(1-\gamma)(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)+(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)+(1-\gamma)\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)} \mid \mathrm{S}\right] \\
&\quad \times\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[e^{-\frac{1}{2}\sigma_I^2(T-\tau)+\sigma_I(Z_T^i-Z_\tau^i)}\right] \\
&= \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}B_\tau^i\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[e^{(1-\gamma)(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)+(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)+(1-\gamma)\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)} \mid \mathrm{S}\right] \\
&= \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}B_\tau^i\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[e^{(1-\gamma)(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)+(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)+(1-\gamma)\sigma(Z_T-Z_\tau)}\right] \\
&= \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}B_\tau^i e^{(1-\gamma)(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)+(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)+\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma)^2\sigma^2(T-\tau)}.
\end{aligned}
\tag{B30}
$$

$$
\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\pi_T B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}] = \kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}B_\tau^i e^{(1-\gamma)(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(T-\tau)+(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)+\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma)^2\sigma^2(T-\tau)}, \tag{B31}
$$

where the derivations of $\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\pi_T B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}]$ are analogous to those of $\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\pi_T B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}]$. We can obtain firm i's stock price after policy regime shifts

$$
M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} = \mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[\frac{\pi_T}{\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}}}B_T^i\middle|\mathrm{S}\right] = \frac{\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\pi_T B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}]}{\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}}} = B_{\tau+}^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)} \tag{B32}
$$

and

$$M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i} = \mathrm{E}_{\tau+}\left[\frac{\pi_T}{\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}} B_T^i \middle| \mathrm{W}\right] = \frac{\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\pi_T B_T^i \mid \mathrm{W}]}{\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}} = B_{\tau+}^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}})(T-\tau)}. \tag{B33}$$

Finally, the stock price at time τ when the policy regime change is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
M_\tau^i &= \mathrm{E}_\tau\left[\frac{\pi_T}{\pi_\tau} B_T^i\right] = \frac{1}{\pi_\tau}\mathrm{E}_\tau[\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\kappa^{-1} B_T^{-\gamma} B_T^i]] \\
&= \frac{p_\tau \mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\kappa^{-1} B_T^{-\gamma} B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}] + (1-p_\tau)\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\kappa^{-1} B_T^{-\gamma} B_T^i \mid \mathrm{W}]}{\pi_\tau} \\
&= \frac{p_\tau \pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-p_\tau)\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}} M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}}{p_\tau \pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} + (1-p_\tau)\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}} \\
&= \phi_\tau M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-\phi_\tau) M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i},
\end{aligned} \tag{B34}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi_\tau &\equiv \frac{p_\tau \pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}}}{p_\tau \pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} + (1-p_\tau)\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}} \\
&= \frac{p_\tau}{p_\tau + (1-p_\tau)\frac{\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}}{\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}}}} \\
&= \frac{p_\tau}{p_\tau + (1-p_\tau) e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}}
\end{aligned} \tag{B35}$$

and

$$G_\tau^i \equiv \frac{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}}{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i}} = e^{\beta^i (g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}. \tag{B36}$$

Proof of Proposition 2

The state price density the expected value of whether environmental policy regime shifts or not,

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi_t &= \mathrm{E}_t[\pi_{\tau+}] \\
&= \mathrm{E}_t[p_\tau \pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} + (1-p_\tau)\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}] \\
&= \mathrm{E}_t[p_\tau]\mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}}\right] + \mathrm{E}_t[(1-p_\tau)]\mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}\right] \\
&= p_{\tau|t}\pi_t^{\mathrm{S}} + (1-p_{\tau|t})\pi_t^{\mathrm{W}},
\end{aligned} \tag{B37}$$

where

$$\pi_t^{\mathrm{S}} = \mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}}\right], \tag{B38}$$

$$\pi_t^{\mathrm{W}} = \mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}\right], \tag{B39}$$

and $p_{\tau|t}$ refers to Corollary 1. We can show that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{E}_t[p_\tau] &= \mathrm{E}_t\left[\int_{\underline{c}(\tau)}^{\infty} n(c;\hat{c}_\tau,\hat{\sigma}_\tau^2)dc\right] \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\left[\int_{\underline{c}(\tau)}^{\infty} n(c;\hat{c}_\tau,\hat{\sigma}_\tau^2)dc\right] n(\hat{c}_\tau;\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_t^2-\hat{\sigma}_\tau^2)d\hat{c}_\tau \\
&= \int_{\underline{c}(\tau)}^{\infty}\left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n(c;\hat{c}_\tau,\hat{\sigma}_\tau^2) n(\hat{c}_\tau;\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_t^2-\hat{\sigma}_\tau^2)d\hat{c}_\tau\right] dc \\
&= \int_{\underline{c}(\tau)}^{\infty} n(c;\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_t^2)dc \\
&= 1 - N(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_t^2) \\
&= p_{\tau|t}.
\end{aligned} \tag{B40}$$

Recalling that equation (B27) the state price density after the government decides whether to change its environmental regulation or not, its value conditional on time $t \leq \tau$ is characterized as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi_t^{\mathrm{S}} = \mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}}\right] &= \mathrm{E}_t\left[\kappa^{-1} B_{\tau+}^{-\gamma} e^{\left\{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(T-\tau)}\right] \\
&= e^{\left\{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(T-\tau)} \mathrm{E}_t\left[B_{\tau+}^{-\gamma}\right] \\
&= e^{\left\{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(T-\tau)} \times B_t^{-\gamma} e^{\left\{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(\tau-t)} \\
&= B_t^{-\gamma} e^{\left\{-\gamma\mu+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(T-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)},
\end{aligned} \tag{B41}$$

where the capital at time t denotes

$$B_\tau = B_t e^{\mu(\tau-t)+g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(\tau-t)+\sigma(Z_\tau-Z_t)}.$$

given that the economy starts from the weal regulation, according to equation (1). We solve the expectation problem by substituting the recursive expression of B_τ into the expectation. On the other hand, we can immediately obtain the state price density at time t, given that there is no regulation regime change.

$$\pi_t^{\mathrm{W}} = \mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}\right] = B_t^{-\gamma} e^{\left\{-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right\}(T-t)}. \tag{B42}$$

Finally, we obtain the state price of density at time t conditional on the government changes the regulation. The unconditional state price of density denotes

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi_t &= p_{\tau|t}\pi_t^{\mathrm{S}} + (1-p_{\tau|t})\pi_t^{\mathrm{W}} \\
&= p_{\tau|t}B_t^{-\gamma}e^{\left(-\gamma\mu+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})B_t^{-\gamma}e^{\left(-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)} \\
&= B_t^{-\gamma}e^{\left(-\gamma\mu+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\left[p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\right] \\
&= B_t^{-\gamma}\Omega_t.
\end{aligned} \tag{B43}$$

where

$$\Omega_t = e^{\left(-\gamma\mu+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\left[p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\right]. \tag{B44}$$

Proof of Proposition 3

The SDF dynamics stem from an application of Ito's Lemma to equation (18).

$$\frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t} = E_t\left[\frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t}\right] - \lambda dZ_t + \lambda_{c,t} d\hat{Z}_t^c. \tag{B45}$$

Trivially, the price of risk of fundamental shocks denotes

$$\lambda = \gamma\sigma, \tag{B46}$$

The price of risk of uncertainty shocks denotes

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_{c,t} &= \frac{1}{\Omega_t}\frac{\partial\Omega_t}{\partial p_{\tau|t}}\frac{\partial p_{\tau|t}}{\partial \hat{c}_t}\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1} \\
&= \frac{e^{\left(-\gamma\mu+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\left[e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} - e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\right]}{e^{\left(-\gamma\mu+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\left[p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\right]} \times n(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2) \times \hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1} \\
&= \left[\frac{(1-p_{\tau|t})(1-F_\tau)}{p_{\tau|t}+(1-p_{\tau|t})F_\tau}\right] n(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2)\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1},
\end{aligned} \tag{B47}$$

where

$$F_\tau = \frac{e^{-\gamma^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}}{e^{-\gamma^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)}} = e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}. \tag{B48}$$

Proof of Proposition 4

The proof is a continuation of the Proposition 3. For $t < \tau$, market value satisfies $M_t^i = \mathrm{E}_t\left[\frac{\pi_T}{\pi_t} M_T^i\right]$. Firm i's stock price denotes

$$M_t^{\mathrm{S},i} = \frac{\mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i}\right]}{\pi_t^{\mathrm{S}}} = B_t^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2)(T-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)}, \tag{B49}$$

when regime shifts at time τ, and denotes

$$M_t^{\mathrm{W},i} = \frac{\mathrm{E}_t\left[\pi_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}} M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}\right]}{\pi_t^{\mathrm{W}}} = B_t^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}})(T-t)}, \tag{B50}$$

when regime does not shift at time τ. Following Proposition 3, firm i's stock price is determined by using law of iterated expectation.

$$\begin{aligned}
M_t^i &= \mathrm{E}_t\left[\frac{\pi_T}{\pi_t}B_T^i\right] = \frac{1}{\pi_t}\mathrm{E}_t[\mathrm{E}_\tau[\kappa^{-1}B_T^{-\gamma}B_T^i]] \\
&= \frac{\mathrm{E}_t\left[p_\tau \mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\kappa^{-1}B_T^{-\gamma}B_T^i \mid \mathrm{S}] + (1-p_\tau)\mathrm{E}_{\tau+}[\kappa^{-1}B_T^{-\gamma}B_T^i \mid \mathrm{W}]\right]}{\pi_t} \\
&= \frac{p_{\tau|t}\mathrm{E}_t\left[\kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}e^{\left(-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{S}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-\tau)}B_\tau^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}\right]}{\pi_t} \\
&\quad + \frac{(1-p_{\tau|t})\mathrm{E}_t\left[\kappa^{-1}B_\tau^{-\gamma}e^{\left(-\gamma(\mu+g^{\mathrm{W}})+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma+1)\sigma^2\right)(T-\tau)}B_\tau^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}})(T-\tau)}\right]}{\pi_t} \\
&= \frac{\kappa^{-1}B_t^{-\gamma}B_t^i e^{(1-\gamma)\mu(T-t)+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma-1)\sigma^2(T-t)+(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\left[p_{\tau|t}e^{(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{(\xi^i-\gamma)g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\right]}{\kappa^{-1}B_t^{-\gamma}e^{\left(-\gamma+\frac{1}{2}\gamma(\gamma-1)\sigma^2\right)(T-t)-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(\tau-t)}\left[p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\right]} \\
&= \frac{p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)}B_t^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2)(T-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}B_t^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}})(T-t)}}{p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}} \\
&= \frac{p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)}M_t^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}M_t^{\mathrm{W},i}}{p_{\tau|t}e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}} \\
&= \frac{p_{\tau|t}M_t^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-p_{\tau|t})\left(\frac{e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}}{e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)}}\right)M_t^{\mathrm{W},i}}{p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})\left(\frac{e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}}{e^{-\gamma g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)}}\right)} \\
&= \frac{p_{\tau|t}M_t^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}M_t^{\mathrm{W},i}}{p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}} \\
&= \phi_t M_t^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-\phi_t)M_t^{\mathrm{W},i}, \qquad \text{(B51)}
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\phi_t \equiv \frac{p_{\tau|t}}{p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}}. \qquad \text{(B52)}$$

We can obtain firm i's market valuation unconditionally by substituting equation (B49) and (B50) into the last equity in equation (B52)

$$\begin{aligned}
M_t^i &= \phi_t M_t^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-\phi_t)M_t^{\mathrm{W},i} \\
&= B_t^i e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2)(T-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\left[\phi_t e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-\phi_t)e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\right] \\
&= B_t^i \Theta_t^i, \qquad \text{(B53)}
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\Theta_t^i = e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2)(T-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\Big[\phi_t e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-\phi_t)e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\Big]. \tag{B54}$$

Proof of Proposition 5

An application of Ito's Lemma to equation (B26) characterizes the return dynamics as follows.

$$\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i} = E_t\left[\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i}\right] + \sigma dZ_t + \sigma_I dZ_t^i + \beta_{M,t}^i d\hat{Z}_t^c, \tag{B55}$$

where $\sigma_{c,t}^i$ is the risk exposure to uncertainty shocks. The derivations of $\sigma_{c,t}^i$ are as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_{M,t}^i &= \frac{1}{\Theta_t^i}\frac{\partial \Theta_t^i}{\partial \phi_t}\frac{\partial \phi_t}{\partial p_{\tau|t}}\frac{\partial p_{\tau|t}}{\partial \hat{c}_t}\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1} \\
&= \frac{e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2)(T-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\Big[e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} - e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\Big]}{e^{(\mu-\gamma\sigma^2)(T-t)+\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(\tau-t)}\Big[\phi_t e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{S}}(T-\tau)} + (1-\phi_t)e^{\xi^i g^{\mathrm{W}}(T-\tau)}\Big]} \times \\
&\quad \frac{\big[p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}\big] - p_{\tau|t}(1-e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)})}{\big[p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}\big]^2} n(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2)\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1} \\
&= \left[\frac{1-e^{\xi^i(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}}{\phi_t + (1-\phi_t)e^{\xi^i(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}}\right]\left[\frac{e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}}{\big(p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}\big)^2}\right] \times \\
&\quad n(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2),\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1} \\
&= \left[\frac{1-G_\tau^i}{\phi_t + (1-\phi_t)G_\tau^i}\right]\left[\frac{F_\tau}{\big(p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})F_\tau\big)^2}\right] n(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2),\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1}.
\end{aligned} \tag{B56}$$

Proof of Corollary 2

We present the partial derivative of $\sigma_{c,t}^i$ to its dependence on β^i.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \beta_{M,t}^i}{\partial \xi^i} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi^i}\left\{\left[\frac{1-G_\tau^i}{\phi_t + (1-\phi_t)G_\tau^i}\right]\left[\frac{F_\tau}{\big(p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})F_\tau\big)^2}\right] n(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2),\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1}\right\} \\
&= \left[\frac{F_\tau}{\big(p_{\tau|t} + (1-p_{\tau|t})F_\tau\big)^2}\right] n(\underline{c}(\tau);\hat{c}_t,\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2),\hat{\sigma}_{c,t}^2\eta^{-1} \times \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi^i}\left\{\left[\frac{1-G_\tau^i}{\phi_t + (1-\phi_t)G_\tau^i}\right]\right\}
\end{aligned} \tag{B57}$$

Since only G_τ^i depends on ξ^i, our analysis focuses on terms related to G_τ^i.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi^i}\left\{\left[\frac{1-G_\tau^i}{\phi_t + (1-\phi_t)G_\tau^i}\right]\right\} = \frac{-\frac{\partial G_\tau^i}{\partial \xi^i}[\phi_t + (1-\phi_t)G_\tau^i] - \Big(-\phi_t\frac{\partial G_\tau^i}{\partial \xi^i}\Big)(1-G_\tau^i)}{\big[\phi_t + (1-\phi_t)G_\tau^i\big]^2} < 0, \tag{B58}$$

where $G_\tau^i > 1$ and $\partial G_\tau^i / \partial \xi^i > 0$.

C Additional Model Implications

In this section, we provide additional model implications when $t = \tau$.

Stochastic Discount Factor (SDF)

Following to Proposition 3, the stochastic follows the process

$$\frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t} = E_t\left[\frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t}\right] - \lambda dZ_t + \lambda_{c,t} d\hat{Z}_t^c + J_{\pi,\tau+}\mathbb{I}_{t=\tau}, \tag{C59}$$

where the price of regime shift jump $J_{\pi,\tau+}$ is given by

$$J_{\pi,\tau+} = \begin{cases} J^{\mathrm{S}}_{\pi,\tau+} > 0 & \text{if there is no policy regime shift} \\ J^{\mathrm{W}}_{\pi,\tau+} < 0 & \text{if there is a policy regime shift,} \end{cases} \tag{C60}$$

and $\mathbb{I}_{t=\tau}$ is an indicator function equal to one for $t = \tau$ and zero otherwise. $J_{\pi,\tau+}$ is defined as the price of risk with respect to regime shift jump. When policy regime shifts at τ, the state price of density changes from π_τ to $\pi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\tau+}$ or $\pi^{\mathrm{W}}_{\tau+}$.

$$\begin{aligned} J^{\mathrm{S}}_{\pi+} &= \frac{\pi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\tau+} - \pi_\tau}{\pi_\tau} \\ &= \frac{\pi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\tau+}}{p_\tau \pi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\tau+} + (1-p_\tau)\pi^{\mathrm{W}}_{\tau+}} - 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{p_\tau + (1-p_\tau)\frac{\pi^{\mathrm{W}}_{\tau+}}{\pi^{\mathrm{S}}_{\tau+}}} - 1 \\ &= \frac{(1-p_\tau)(1-e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)})}{p_\tau + (1-p_\tau)e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}} \\ &= \frac{(1-p_\tau)(1-F_\tau)}{p_\tau + (1-p_\tau)F_\tau} > 0, \end{aligned} \tag{C61}$$

Similarly, the expression for the jump if there is no regulation change follows from the martingale condition

$$J_\tau = \mathrm{E}_\tau[J_{\tau+}] = p_\tau J^{\mathrm{S}}_{\pi+} + (1-p_\tau)J^{\mathrm{W}}_{\pi+} = 0, \tag{C62}$$

which implies

$$J^{\mathrm{W}}_{\pi+} = -\frac{p_\tau}{1-p_\tau}J^{\mathrm{S}}_{\pi} = \frac{p_\tau(F_\tau - 1)}{p_\tau + (1-p_\tau)F_\tau} = \frac{p_\tau(e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)} - 1)}{p_\tau + (1-p_\tau)e^{-\gamma(g^{\mathrm{W}}-g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}} < 0. \tag{C63}$$

Realized Returns

The realized return dynamics follow

$$\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i} = E_t\left[\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i}\right] + \sigma dZ_t + \sigma_I dZ_t^i + \sigma_{M,t}^i d\hat{Z}_t^c + J_{M,,\tau+}^i \mathbb{I}_{t=\tau}, \tag{C64}$$

where the risk exposure to regime shift jump $J_{M,\tau}^i$ is given by

$$J_{M,\tau+}^i = \begin{cases} J_{M,\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} < 0 & \text{if there is a policy regime shift} \\ J_{M,\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i} > 0 & \text{if there is no policy regime shift} \end{cases} \tag{C65}$$

At time τ, stock prices jump. The jump of regime shifts from the weak to strong regulation denotes

$$\begin{aligned} J_{M,\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} &= \frac{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} - M_\tau^i}{M_\tau^i} = \frac{(1-\phi_\tau)(M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} - M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i})}{\phi_\tau M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-\phi_\tau) M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}} \\ &= \frac{(1-\phi_\tau)\Big(1 - \frac{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}}{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i}}\Big)}{\phi_\tau + (1-\phi_\tau)\frac{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}}{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i}}} \\ &= \frac{(1-\phi_\tau)\big\{1 - e^{\beta^i (g^{\mathrm{W}} - g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}\big\}}{\phi_\tau + (1-\phi_\tau) e^{\beta^i (g^{\mathrm{W}} - g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}} \\ &= \frac{(1-\phi_\tau)\big\{1 - G_\tau^i\big\}}{\phi_\tau + (1-\phi_\tau) G_\tau^i}. \end{aligned} \tag{C66}$$

For $J_M^{\mathrm{W},i}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_{M,\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i} &= \frac{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i} - M_\tau^i}{M_\tau^i} = \frac{-\phi_\tau(M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} - M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i})}{\phi_\tau M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} + (1-\phi_\tau) M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}} \\ &= \frac{-\phi_\tau(1 - \frac{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}}{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i}})}{\phi_\tau + (1-\phi_\tau)\frac{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i}}{M_{\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i}}} \\ &= \frac{-\phi_\tau\big\{1 - e^{\beta^i (g^{\mathrm{W}} - g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}\big\}}{\phi_\tau + (1-\phi_\tau) e^{\beta^i (g^{\mathrm{W}} - g^{\mathrm{S}})(T-\tau)}} \\ &= \frac{-\phi_\tau\big\{1 - G_\tau^i\big\}}{\phi_\tau + (1-\phi_\tau) G_\tau^i}. \end{aligned} \tag{C67}$$

Expected Returns

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{E}_t\left[\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i}\right] &= -\mathrm{Cov}_t\left(\frac{dM_t^i}{M_t^i}, \frac{d\pi_t}{\pi_t}\right) \\
&= \sigma\lambda dt - \sigma_{c,t}^i \lambda_{M,t} dt - \left[p_\tau J_{M,\tau+}^{\mathrm{S},i} J_{\pi,\tau+}^{\mathrm{S}} + (1-p_\tau) J_{M,\tau+}^{\mathrm{W},i} J_{\pi,\tau+}^{\mathrm{W}}\right] \mathbb{I}_{t=\tau} dt. \quad \text{(C68)}
\end{aligned}$$