

SOUTHEND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



15 May 2021

CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL.

Dear Sir David and James,

As representatives for Southend-on-Sea at Westminster, I am writing to you today on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group on Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and the Southend Branch of the Liberal Democrats, to ask you to support Amendment (a) to the Queen's speech, which calls on the Government to introduce and make time available for a Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill to progress and be debated in Parliament.

A CEE Bill is a response to the need for stronger, more joined-up legislation to tackle the climate and nature emergency. It is the only proposed legislative plan that addresses the interconnections between the climate, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. It recognises that if we succeed in reaching net zero in a reasonable timescale without addressing these wider issues, we will not solve the climate emergency or prevent the Earth's systems from breaking down.

The scale and scope of our ambition must match the historic challenge that we face. As it stands, current legislation is not in line with the latest science—and the Government's proposed legislation is in danger of being too weak to bring about necessary change. We are falling short.

The Government's net zero target gives us just a 'greater than 50%' chance of remaining within Paris-compliant global temperatures—and that's if the whole world does the same. Furthermore, in spite of the Government's Earth Day announcements, the UK is not on track to meet its *Fourth or Fifth Carbon Budgets*. *We have no solid targets for protecting and actively restoring nature in the UK—and our emissions and ecological impacts are increasing through our imports.*

As co-hosts to COP26, the UK has an opportunity to lead the world by taking responsibility for our entire emissions and ecological footprint. In order to show other nations that we are to be taken seriously, we must first put our own house in order. Supporting this CEE Bill amendment is a part of making this happen.

The crisis of our natural world requires a commensurate response—we need to shift parliament's focus so that our future and that of our children is protected.

We call upon you as our elected representatives to add your signatures to Queen's Speech Amendment (a) and support the need for comprehensive UK-wide legislation to reverse climate change and protect and enhance our natural world. To add your signature to the amendment, please email the Table Office at tableoffice@parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely

Carole Mulroney

Leader of Southend Liberal Democrats on Southend Borough Council and on behalf of the Southend Liberal Democrats