

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 July 2019

Dear Mr Hunt,

We are writing on behalf of 43 organisations representing a wide cross section of civil society and with a combined membership of millions of people. We are united in our belief that the political response to the climate and environmental crises needs to be bigger and faster. The world is hitting record-breaking temperatures, and the poorest communities are being affected the most. The devastating decline in biodiversity is set to wipe out a million species. Our oceans are choking in plastic and our children are breathing toxic air.

The next prime minister will assume office at a pivotal moment. We strongly welcome your endorsement of the UK government's decision to legislate for net zero emissions. This marks a historic step, making the UK the first major economy to put net zero into law. In addition, the government has promised that an ambitious Environment Bill will be introduced this year.

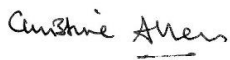
Our organisations came together to organise the largest ever mass lobby for climate, nature and people on 26 June. 12,000 people attended and spoke with more than 350 MPs to support:

1. a flagship Environment Act with ambitious legally binding targets for healthy air, clean water, thriving wildlife, waste and plastic pollution, and our global footprint. We need a powerful, independent watchdog to make sure these are achieved;
2. rapid action to phase out fossil fuels and slash emissions, to get us on track to net zero by 2045 at the latest;
3. scaled up investment to tackle the climate and environmental emergency, fairly and democratically. This should include government spending of at least 2% of GDP per year for climate action and restoring nature, both at home and abroad, starting now; and
4. putting environment and climate action at the heart of the UK's international agenda. Accelerating progress towards achieving global goals on climate change, nature protection and restoration, and sustainable development at the three major UN summits in 2020 and the G7 in 2021. And ruling out signing trade deals with countries that are not implementing the Paris Agreement or upholding human rights and environmental standards.

These steps are not just necessary, they are popular. Recent polling shows public concern for the environment is the highest on record and more than two thirds of the British public want the government to move further and faster on these issues. As a contender to be prime minister, we urge you to make tackling the climate and wider environmental emergency a priority, and commit to ramping up the policies and investment needed to get us on track.

Please will you confirm your support for the four points above and set out how you would take this vital work forward?

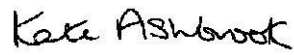
Yours sincerely,



Christine Allen
Director, CAFOD



Andy Atkins
A Rocha



Kate Ashbrook
General secretary, Open
Spaces Society



Mark Baker
Secretary, CMA



Alice Bell
Director of
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1010 Climate Action



Chris Butler-Stroud
CEO, Whale and Dolphin
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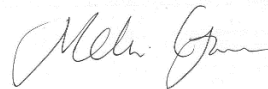
Mike Clarke
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Shlomo Downen
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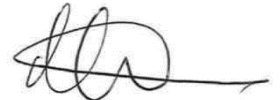
Terry Fuller
CEO, CIWEM



Melissa Green
General secretary, WI



Vanessa Griffiths
CEO, The Ramblers



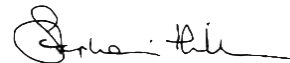
Mark Harold
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Nigel Harris
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Stephanie Hilborne
CEO, The Wildlife Trusts



Sue James
Convenor, Trees and
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David Joy
CEO, British Canoeing



Michael Krause
Acting CEO, Plantlife



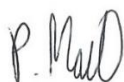
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Martin Spray
CEO, Wildfowl & Wetlands
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Tanya Steele
CEO, WWF



Kit Stoner
CEO, Bat Conservation
Trust



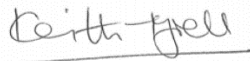
James Thornton
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Dr Keith Tyrell
Director, PAN UK



Stewart Wardrop
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