

Jo Swinson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 July 2019

Dear Jo Swinson,

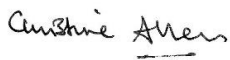
We are writing on behalf of 43 organisations representing a wide cross section of civil society and with a combined membership of millions of people. We are united in our belief that the political response to the climate and environmental crises needs to be bigger and faster. The world is hitting record-breaking 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 Liberal Democrat leader will assume office at a pivotal moment. 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, following your party's welcome commitment to this target;
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 for the Liberal Democrat leadership, we urge you to confirm that you will make tackling the climate and wider environmental emergency a top priority if you are successful, and push for the policies and investment needed to get us on track.

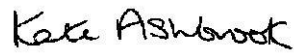
Yours sincerely,



Christine Allen
Director, CAFOD



Andy Atkins
A Rocha



Kate Ashbrook
General secretary, Open
Spaces Society



Mark Baker
Secretary, CMA



Alice Bell
Director of
communications,
1010 Climate Action



Chris Butler-Stroud
CEO, Whale and Dolphin
Conservation



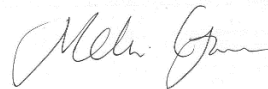
Mike Clarke
CEO, RSPB



Shlomo Downen
National coordinator,
UK Without Incineration
Network



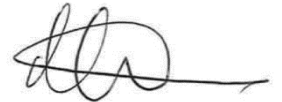
Terry Fuller
CEO, CIWEM



Melissa Green
General secretary, WI



Vanessa Griffiths
CEO, The Ramblers



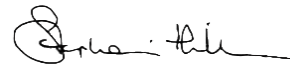
Mark Harold
Director of land and
nature, National Trust



Sally Hayns
CEO, CIEM



Nigel Harris
CEO, Tearfund



Stephanie Hilborne
CEO, The Wildlife Trusts



Sue James
Convenor, Trees and
Design Action Group



David Joy
CEO, British Canoeing



Michael Krause
Acting CEO, Plantlife



Chris Large
Senior partner, Global
Action Plan



Sandy Luk
CEO, Marine Conservation
Society



Nick Mabey
CEO and founder director,
E3G



Phil MacDonald
Chief Operating Officer,
Sandbag



George Marshall
Founder, Climate Outreach



Carina Millstone
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Feedback

Iain Patton
CEO, EAUC

Gill Perkins
Chief executive, Bumblebee
Conservation Trust

Mary Rice
Executive director,
Environmental
Investigation Agency

Sue Riddlestone
CEO and co-founder,
Bioregional

John Sauven
CEO, Greenpeace

Matt Shardlow
CEO, Buglife

Beccy Speight
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Alliance

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

Kit Stoner
CEO, Bat Conservation
Trust

James Thornton
CEO, ClientEarth

Crispin Truman
CEO, CPRE

Dave Turnbull
CEO, British
Mountaineering Council

Dr Keith Tyrell
Director, PAN UK

Stewart Wardrop
CEO, Arboricultural
Association

Julie Williams
CEO, Butterfly Conservation

Rebecca Wrigley
CEO, Rewilding Britain

Darren York
CEO, TCV



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