

David Johnston OBE, M.P.
Member of Parliament for
Wantage
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council

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24 December 2021

Dear Mr Johnston,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of Horse District Council regarding the Climate and Ecology Bill.

The consequences of humanity's behaviours on the natural environment can already be seen. The climate is changing, leading, not just to more frequent and extreme weather events, but also the destruction of natural habitats. Furthermore, these rapid and substantial changes are altering the natural cycles of life and upsetting the balances that help to support many species of flora and fauna.

In addition, in our pursuit of progress and development, we have often failed to appreciate the damage being caused to the natural environment. Within the UK, changes to farming practices, inappropriate and unnecessary development and pollution have degraded many habitats and forced many of our native animals and plants to the verge of destruction – a pattern being repeated around the world.

The Climate and Ecology Bill, if it became law, would:

- Create core climate and nature targets.
- Require HM Government to halt and reverse the UK's overall contribution to the degradation and loss of nature in the UK and overseas.
- Necessitate that HM Government develops a strategy that would address the climate and environment emergencies.
- Create a representative citizens' assembly to allow for meaningful input from the public.

The Vale believes that the Climate and Ecology Bill would make a meaningful difference in helping to address the twin global emergencies of climate change and ecological destruction. We, therefore, urge you to support this measure.

In addition, we would also request that you lobby HM Government to provide sufficient resources and powers for local government to make a meaningful contribution to addressing these issues. At present, councils do not have either the

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flexibility in terms of policy or the funding (after a decade of austerity) to allow them to take the necessary actions in this area.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Smith', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council