

Robert Courts MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

Cllr Emily Smith
135 Eastern Ave
Milton Park
Milton
OX14 4SB

Monday, 10th January 2022
Ref: bl/RC44559

Dear Cllr Smith,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Vale of White Horse District Council's support for the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill.

I understand that this Bill has been developed by campaign members of Extinction Rebellion, Big Ask and Power for the People. I note that the Bill seeks to examine the UK's global carbon footprint, such as indirect UK emissions in our supply chain which may affect developing countries.

I am encouraged that the UK remains committed to environmentally sustainable development as set out in the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. In January 2021, the Prime Minister announced that the UK will spend at least £3 billion of international climate finance on nature and biodiversity over five years. The funding will deliver transformational change in protecting biodiversity-rich land and ocean, shifting to sustainable food production and supply, and supporting the livelihoods of the world's poorest.

I do not believe citizens' assemblies have advantages over conventional policy making in this context. Previous experiences in Canada, for instance, included citizens in the decision-making process but they failed to produce impactful or long-lasting results.

I know that a Climate Assembly UK was formed as a result of work conducted by Parliamentary Select Committees. I welcome that many of their recommendations, which were published in their report, are already either in place or in the pipeline as a result of the Government working towards net zero. Achieving net zero will affect everyone and it is important that we work together to achieve it.

While I welcome the increased awareness and debate that this Bill brings, I do not believe that the Bill is required as work is already underway to achieve our net zero target and protect our environment.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Robert Courts MP

*From the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Witney in West Oxfordshire
including Bampton, Burford, Carterton, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Eynsham, Witney and Woodstock.*