The Rt Hon David Cameron MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA  

11 March 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

Your government has the chance on Monday to revitalise the Climate Change Act and to make it properly fit for the post-Paris political and economic era.

So far, the UK has been a world leader. It was instrumental in establishing a global climate agreement in Paris, while the Climate Change Act is rightly admired around the world.

But our climate law no longer reflects internationally agreed ambition. Expectations have changed and it’s time to make sure the Climate Change Act can meet them.

Paris committed nations to net zero emissions, and our laws must too. So, there can be no ‘get-outs’ on carbon. ‘Net zero’ must mean just that.

Carbon budgets underpin the central aim of the Climate Change Act – reducing emissions – but the Emissions Trading System prevents them working as they should. Shortcomings in accounting mean around 40% of the UK’s emissions are essentially disregarded by the Act.

Carbon accounting must encompass all sectors if we are to lead – or even keep pace – in the global climate effort over the coming decades. Carbon budgets must be clear, certain and apply to the full spectrum of the UK’s emissions – as many would be forgiven for assuming they currently do.

The relevant amendment to the Energy Bill would guarantee this. It would make the UK fully accountable for all its emissions, unlocking the potential of the Climate Change Act to work as it can and must.

We would strongly urge your government to support this proposed amendment in the Commons on Monday. The UK has a national and global responsibility to manage its emissions transparently and ambitiously. This amendment is a prerequisite for doing so.

Yours sincerely,

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