



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Klaus Armstrong Braun
Amazonia
8 Eaton Close
Broughton
Flintshire
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Our Ref: GR/ARMS01001/04160785

06 December 2016

Dear Mr Armstrong Braun

The Green Alliance have shared with me the support they received from constituents in Alyn and Deeside. Our native wildlife is facing unprecedented challenges from climate change and habitat loss and I believe that the Government has a duty to protect our natural environment.

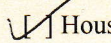
It is very disappointing, therefore, that despite promising to be the 'greenest government ever' during the last Parliament, the House of Commons' Environmental Audit Committee gave the Coalition Government a 'red card' for its record on biodiversity. The State of Nature 2016 report has also recently revealed that one in ten of the UK's wildlife species are threatened with extinction and the UK has lost significantly more nature over the long term than the global average. I am very concerned about this decline and believe the Government should be doing much more to protect our natural environment.

However, the Government has delayed publication of its 25 year plan for the environment and its 25 year food and farming plan. I want British farming to be economically viable and environmentally sustainable and I hope the Government will publish both plans as a matter of urgency. However, I believe there should be one combined plan because farming and the environment are intrinsically linked and we need a long-term approach to both. The Government must also review its approach to flooding and develop a long-term strategy that addresses all aspects of flood risk management, including a greater focus on prevention.

EU law will still have effect in the UK until we leave the EU and the Government has now confirmed that it intends to enact a Great Repeal Bill which will end the primacy of EU law in the UK. The Government's Bill will seek to incorporate EU legislation into UK law, after which the Government will decide which parts to keep, change or retain. Like you, I am concerned that many environmental protections are at risk once the UK does leave the EU, along with the advances of the past 40 years - including on water management; protection of our beaches and marine environment; and on wildlife and air quality.

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The implications of leaving the EU for our fisheries are highly uncertain and I believe it is vital that we protect fish stocks and the livelihoods that depend upon them. The Government must set out its strategy on how it will protect the provisions of important EU environmental directives. I also believe the Government must develop plans to retain protections so that the UK does not become a riskier, unhealthier or more polluted place.

At the UN Climate Change conference in Paris in December 2015, 195 countries agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the aim of limiting a global temperature rise to below 2°C, with a further aspiration of a 1.5°C limit. I welcome this agreement and am pleased that the UK has now started its domestic process to enable ratification. This is due to be completed before the end of the year. I believe the Government must now publish its carbon plan to show how it will deliver on the UK's commitments.

The UK has been a major player on the global stage for environment protections, and it is vital that we maintain a strong voice.

I have therefore signed the Pledge for the Environment that is supported by several environmental organisations and I can assure you that I will continue to press the Government to ensure our environmental protections are not weakened when the UK leaves the EU. I will also hold the Government to account on its climate change commitments and press it to do more to protect our natural environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Tami'.

Mark Tami MP
Alyn and Deeside