

Dear Sheryll Murray MP

We, the undersigned, are a group of local businesses, organisations and community groups in South East Cornwall that are committed to action on the climate and ecological emergency. In order to align our businesses and organisations with a sustainable and zero carbon future, we require a strong legislative framework that embeds the Government's targets in law, enabling us to plan and develop our future trajectories to fit in with those targets.

For this reason, we are asking you to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill, which has been proposed by a coalition of scientists, academics and lawyers with the aim of bringing the UK's climate policy into line with evolving scientific advice. It will commit us to the emissions reductions necessary to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C. It will ensure that we fairly account for the UK's entire carbon footprint, bringing in shipping, aviation and emissions embodied as carbon in imported products, all currently excluded. Including these figures actually increases our emissions by 40% and undermines the government's claim to have reduced emissions by 40% since 1990. And importantly, it commits to the protection and active restoration of degraded ecosystems, the active management of carbon sinks, and a comprehensive set of metrics to assess progress.

Because behaviour change is required to tackle the climate and ecological crisis, it is essential that people are involved in decisions that impact them. The Bill proposes Citizens' Assemblies as a tried and tested route to engaging citizens in the democratic process in such a way that effectively mandates and empowers politicians to arrive at recommendations that will address challenging decisions. This will help by showing what the people propose and are prepared to support. Crucially this assembly will be independent, guided by science and free from lobbying by interest groups.

The CEE Bill has already gained the support of 103 MPs and a range of businesses and campaign groups (for example the Sustain Alliance and Save British Farming). It goes above and beyond existing and currently proposed legislation such as the Environment Bill, in that it will set binding targets and budgets that will give our businesses and organisations the certainty to act. In contrast the Government's proposed Environment Bill only sets long-term targets of 15 years, with no binding interim targets for improving air and water quality, biodiversity, resource efficiency and waste reduction, and it does not include any greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Another initiative, the Ten Point Plan, sets out the Government's vision and some welcome investment, but does not provide binding targets or a detailed plan on achieving the emissions cuts we need to keep global warming below 1.5°C.

This year, the attention of the world will be on the UK as we host both the UN Climate Change Conference and the G7 summit here in the South West. This will be an opportunity to offer an ambitious policy framework, to present the UK as forward thinking, going above and beyond the policy framework we currently have in place which is widely regarded by scientists as inadequate for meeting our climate targets.

We have the opportunity to be the first nation to fully embrace the expert advice, establishing ourselves as a global leader, and providing the certainty that British businesses need to innovate and invest.

We ask you therefore to support the CEE Bill, and to recognise that there is a wide and growing, diverse group of organisations and businesses in your constituency calling on the Government to take leadership by setting binding commitments in law on tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Yours sincerely

[Orgs. listed alphabetically]