

_____ MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

___ February 2008

Dear _____

As you know, climate change is a huge threat to billions of people round the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2007 that if the world does not act rapidly to cut greenhouse gas emissions:

- Glaciers on which over 1 billion people depend for dry-season water supplies could disappear
- Increased storms and rising sea-levels mean many millions more people will be flooded each year
- Food production will decrease across developing countries, leading to hundreds of millions more people being malnourished

The IPCC went on to say that to prevent global temperatures increasing by more than 2°C, the level targeted by the UK government and EU to prevent the worst effects of climate change, global emissions have to be cut by between 50 and 85 per cent by 2050.

Climate change is a matter of simple injustice. It is overwhelming being caused by the richest countries and communities in our world, but it is the poorest who will suffer the most. The UK emits 10 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person, compared to 4 tonnes in China, 1 tonne in India and 0.3 tonnes in Bangladesh. For the UK to do its fair share to tackle climate change means that we must reduce emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 and more than 80 per cent by 2050.

The UK government is currently passing a climate change bill through Parliament, which will put into law targets for reducing UK carbon emissions. However, as currently drafted, it will not deliver what is needed:

1) The bill sets a target for reducing carbon emissions by 26 per cent by 2020 and 60 per cent by 2050. Various sources, including the United Nations Development Programme and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, say that if the rest of the world copies this level of cuts in emissions, global temperature will increase by 4-5°C, which will mean catastrophic consequences across the world.

The targets need to be increased to reduce carbon emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 and at least 80 per cent by 2050.

2) The bill does not include emissions from the UK's share of international aviation. The government has figures for UK aviation emissions from aircraft which depart from UK airports. The Department for Transport says that aviation makes-up 13 per cent of the UK's contribution to climate change. Aviation is also the fastest growing source of UK emissions; carbon emissions from UK aviation have more than doubled since 1990.

The climate bill has to include aviation emissions, or cuts in emissions from other sectors will be wiped-out by increased emissions from flying.

Climate change is a huge issue of global justice. The UK has to show international leadership to tackle this injustice. I urge you to vote for the two amendments above to the climate bill when it passes through the House of Commons over the next few months.

Yours sincerely