



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr. Caroline Lucas,
Suite 58,
The Hop Exchange,
24 Southwark Street,
London. SE1 1TY

12th March, 2008.

Dear Dr. Lucas,

Thank you for your letter about the Climate Change Bill.

The Conservative Party agrees that the current target for cuts in emissions of 60 per cent is insufficient. We have further argued – and tabled amendments to the Bill on this point – that the target itself should not be set by the Government but by an independent committee of experts and then adopted by Parliament. We think too it would be wrong for international aviation and shipping to be excluded. It makes little sense to seek (as the Government is doing) to include aviation in the EU's emissions trading scheme and then to exclude it from the scope of this Bill. Amendments on biodiversity and wildlife have also been tabled by the Conservatives and debated in the House of Lords and they are likely to be debated again in the later stages.

My Party has, therefore, already taken positive action to try to strengthen the Bill in the way you advocate and our efforts will continue as necessary when it comes to be debated in the Commons.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Mates'.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Mates, MP