

Jo Swinson MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

12 July 2019

Dear Jo Swinson,

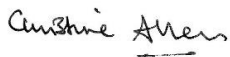
We are writing on behalf of 43 organisations representing a wide cross section of civil society and with a combined membership of millions of people. We are united in our belief that the political response to the climate and environmental crises needs to be bigger and faster. The world is hitting record-breaking temperatures, and the poorest communities are being affected the most. The devastating decline in biodiversity is set to wipe out a million species. Our oceans are choking in plastic and our children are breathing toxic air.

The next Liberal Democrat leader will assume office at a pivotal moment. Our organisations came together to organise the largest ever mass lobby for climate, nature and people on 26 June. 12,000 people attended and spoke with more than 350 MPs to support:

1. a flagship Environment Act with ambitious legally binding targets for healthy air, clean water, thriving wildlife, waste and plastic pollution, and our global footprint. We need a powerful, independent watchdog to make sure these are achieved;
2. rapid action to phase out fossil fuels and slash emissions, to get us on track to net zero by 2045 at the latest, following your party's welcome commitment to this target;
3. scaled up investment to tackle the climate and environmental emergency, fairly and democratically. This should include government spending of at least 2% of GDP per year for climate action and restoring nature, both at home and abroad, starting now; and
4. putting environment and climate action at the heart of the UK's international agenda. Accelerating progress towards achieving global goals on climate change, nature protection and restoration, and sustainable development at the three major UN summits in 2020 and the G7 in 2021. And ruling out signing trade deals with countries that are not implementing the Paris Agreement or upholding human rights and environmental standards.

These steps are not just necessary, they are popular. Recent polling shows public concern for the environment is the highest on record and more than two thirds of the British public want the government to move further and faster on these issues. As a contender for the Liberal Democrat leadership, we urge you to confirm that you will make tackling the climate and wider environmental emergency a top priority if you are successful, and push for the policies and investment needed to get us on track.

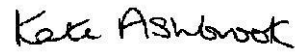
Yours sincerely,



**Christine Allen**  
Director, CAFOD



**Andy Atkins**  
CEO, A Rocha



**Kate Ashbrook**  
General secretary, Open  
Spaces Society



**Mark Baker**  
Secretary, CMA



**Alice Bell**  
Director of  
communications,  
1010 Climate Action



**Chris Butler-Stroud**  
CEO, Whale and Dolphin  
Conservation



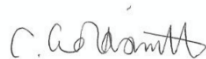
**Mike Clarke**  
CEO, RSPB



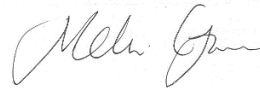
**Shlomo Downen**  
National coordinator,  
UK Without Incineration  
Network



**Terry Fuller**  
CEO, CIWEM



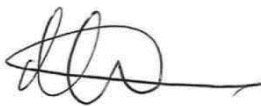
**Clara Goldsmith**  
Director, The Climate  
Coalition



**Melissa Green**  
General secretary, WI



**Vanessa Griffiths**  
CEO, The Ramblers



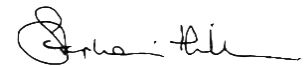
**Mark Harold**  
Director of land and nature,  
National Trust



**Nigel Harris**  
CEO, Tearfund



**Sally Hayns**  
CEO, CIEEM



**Stephanie Hilborne**  
CEO, The Wildlife Trusts




**Sue James**  
Convenor, Trees and  
Design Action Group



**David Joy**  
CEO, British Canoeing



**Michael Krause**  
Acting CEO, Plantlife



**Chris Large**  
Senior partner, Global  
Action Plan



**Sandy Luk**  
CEO, Marine Conservation  
Society



**Nick Mabey**  
Chief executive & founder  
director, E3G



**Phil MacDonald**  
Chief Operating Officer,  
Sandbag



**George Marshall**  
Founder, Climate Outreach



**Carina Millstone**  
Executive director,  
Feedback



**Iain Patton**  
CEO, EAUC



**Gill Perkins**  
CEO, Bumblebee  
Conservation Trust



**Mary Rice**  
Executive director,  
Environmental  
Investigation Agency



**Sue Riddlestone**  
CEO & co-founder,  
Bioregional



**John Sauven**  
CEO, Greenpeace



**Matt Shardlow**  
CEO, Buglife



**Becky Speight**  
CEO, The Woodland Trust



**Shaun Spiers**  
Executive director, Green  
Alliance



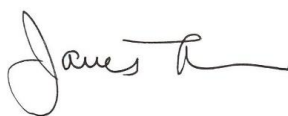
**Martin Spray**  
CEO, Wildfowl & Wetlands  
Trust



**Tanya Steele**  
CEO, WWF



**Kit Stoner**  
CEO, Bat Conservation  
Trust



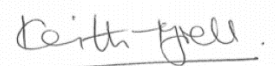
**James Thornton**  
CEO, ClientEarth



**Crispin Truman**  
CEO, CPRE



**Dave Turnbull**  
CEO, British  
Mountaineering Council



**Dr Keith Tyrell**  
Director, PAN UK



**Stewart Wardrop**  
CEO, Arboricultural  
Association



**Julie Williams**  
CEO, Butterfly Conservation



**Rebecca Wrigley**  
CEO, Rewilding Britain



**Darren York**  
CEO, TCV



Please reply to: Shaun Spiers, executive director, Green Alliance, 11 Belgrave Road, London SW1V 1RB [sspiers@green-alliance.org.uk](mailto:sspiers@green-alliance.org.uk)