

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th July 2018

New Constituent,

RE: ONSHORE WIND (CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN).

Thank you for contacting me recently about onshore wind farms; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

Clean growth has been placed at the heart of the new Industrial Strategy, with Ministers aiming to cut emissions, while keeping costs down for consumers, create high value jobs, and to grow the economy.

The development of renewable energy is already a tremendous UK success story, and owing to significant investment and support, renewable capacity has quadrupled since 2010. Last year, 30 percent of our electricity generation came from renewable sources, and the Government has sent clear signals to investors and businesses that our country is transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

As I understand it, however, the Government has been clear that it does not believe that more large-scale onshore wind power is right for England, at this time. It is also important to appreciate that they can often fail to win public support. That is why I believe it is right that more power has been given to local communities on where wind farms can be built, with the final say resting locally.

I should also add that, having been heavily involved in the national anti-wind farm campaign, Together Against Wind, I am unsurprisingly cautious of promoting these types of renewable energy generation for the sake of appearing to help the environment. I believe a better approach for the environment, in the long-term, is to consider which renewable energy sources produce the most energy, in the most efficient manner, and do not impose significantly on local surroundings – a credential I do not believe wind farms possess, in general.

Instead, I believe that subsidies are better directed towards new and emerging technologies, rather than long-established ones, such as onshore wind.

In this vein, ultimately, it is right that support should be focused on technologies where it is most needed, which is why the Government announced in the Clean Growth Strategy that it would make up to £557 million of annual funding available for less established technologies. I understand that the next funding auction is planned for spring 2019.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE