



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th August 2021

Jean Combréant

RE: TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE – INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of tackling climate change and UK international leadership on this agenda at COP26 in November.

I agree with you that tackling climate change needs to be an international effort. I am proud of the work that the UK is already doing in this area. For example, the UK was the first G7 economy to legislate to achieve net-zero and since 1990 the UK economy has grown by 75 percent, while cutting emissions by 43 percent.

The Prime Minister has set out his ‘Ten Point Plan’ for a net-zero recovery which will not only create thousands of British jobs, but also invigorate our plans to achieve net-zero by 2050. The UK, as hosts of COP26 taking place in Glasgow in November, will also call on world leaders ahead of the summit to put forward their own ambitious targets or commitments to help eradicate their contributions to climate change.

The UK has an ambitious new emissions target of a 68 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the decade, compared to 1990 levels. This ‘Nationally Determined Contribution’ under the *Paris Climate Agreement* commits the UK to reducing emissions by the fastest rate of any major economy. This also builds on the ‘Ten Point Plan’ and puts the UK on the path to net-zero by 2050, leading the way in tackling climate change globally.

However, I am delighted that the Prime Minister has gone even further in the UK’s ‘Sixth Carbon Budget’ and enshrined in law a target to reduce emissions by 78 percent by 2035. In line with the recommendation from the independent Climate Change Committee, this Sixth Carbon Budget limits the volume of greenhouse gases emitted over a 5-year period from 2033 to 2037, taking the UK more than three-quarters of the way to reaching net-zero by 2050. I welcome this decision, which is the world’s most ambitious climate target, as it ensures the UK remains consistent with the *Paris Agreement* temperature goal to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts towards 1.5°C. In addition, this marks the first Carbon Budget which incorporates the UK’s share of international aviation and shipping emissions.

I was pleased that world leaders, when they met at the G7 in June 2021, committed to limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C. In addition, they confirmed they would reach net-zero by 2050 and reach a 50 percent reduction in emissions by 2030. While this was welcome, I am pleased that the UK’s climate targets are more ambitious and I hope other countries work towards further ambition.



When the UK achieves net-zero, we will have eliminated our contribution to climate change, which as of December 2019, accounted for 1.2 percent of global emissions. Many other countries will hopefully follow our ambition, particularly those with a larger share of global emissions.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**