

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

27th September 2023

Dear Constituent,

RE: ENERGY BILL – AMENDMENTS NC2 AND NC3

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the *Energy Bill* and amendments NC2 and NC3. I have read your comments on them with interest.

As you are aware, in reaction to President Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, global energy prices soared to unprecedented levels. The Government acted swiftly last winter to help UK families and businesses, covering around half a typical household's energy bill and around half of wholesale energy costs for some businesses. In 2023, the Government also published 'Powering Up Britain' which reconciles our 'Energy Security Plan' with the 'Net Zero Growth Plan' to transform our energy system, achieve net-zero by 2050 and boost economic growth. Importantly, it promotes greater energy independence through low-carbon technologies.

The Government's landmark *Energy Bill* is essential to this transformation. The Bill aims to increase the resilience and reliability of UK energy systems, support the delivery of climate change commitments, while minimising consumer costs and providing protection against unfair pricing. To enable this, the Bill is structured around three key pillars: liberating investment in clean technologies; reforming the UK's energy system so it is fit for the future; while maintaining the safety, security and resilience of the UK's energy sources.

On amendments NC2 and NC3 specifically, the Government is committed to ensuring that unabated coal has no part to play in future power generation, which is why the Government is phasing it out of our electricity production by 2024. Coal's share of the UK's electricity generation has already declined significantly in recent years, from almost 40 percent in 2012 to around 2 percent in 2021.

For energy security reasons, it is vital that we maintain all options that are open to us. That does not in any way impede achieving net-zero. The planned phase-out date of October 2024 is extant and something that the Government is working towards. However, it is important to ensure that, as part of the UK's electricity baseload, we have access to the relevant energy sources to ensure the UK's energy security is guaranteed before this date. As such, I could not support these amendments.

Achieving net-zero is a top priority for the UK, which, in turn, will reduce dependency on Russian energy. I am confident that the UK will continue to invest in renewable technologies and find ways of increasing home energy efficiency across the country.

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

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