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The Prime Minister  
Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

27 October 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

The 2019 Conservative Manifesto promised “the most ambitious environmental programme on Earth”. Instead, in recent weeks, we have experienced an attack on nature.

In your first days as Prime Minister, you may find two sets of papers on your desk.

On one, you will find our proposals to implement your environmental promises. These include more ambitious, world-leading Environment Act targets; a plan for a sustainable farming future, based on public money for public goods; a new and improved strategy to achieve net zero; and the “30 by 30” promise to protect 30% of our land and sea for nature. These proposals are in keeping with your manifesto commitments, they would show great leadership ahead of COP15 global nature negotiations, and they would provide the foundation for a sustainable and prosperous economy.

On the other, you will find proposals for the Retained EU Law bill, which could destroy swathes of environmental law; deregulatory planning proposals, such as investment zones, which could obliterate our chances of restoring habitats; and a farming review, which could undermine the benefits of the farming transition. These proposals are a serious threat to the future of nature and climate. Rather than create growth and certainty, they would entail years of doubt, delay and lost opportunity.

So, as members of the UK’s environmental movement, on behalf of our eight million members and more, we ask you to make the right choice.

Please honour the 2019 pledge for environmental ambition, green jobs and a sustainable economy. Set aside misguided plans for deregulation for deregulation’s sake and an old-fashioned fossil fuel, extractive economy. Instead, please focus on implementing bold and popular plans for thriving wildlife, unpolluted air and water, resource efficiency, and regenerative agriculture.

Let’s make the future of our wonderful country a green and prosperous one.

Yours sincerely

Laura Clarke, CEO, ClientEarth UK

Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF UK

Craig Bennett, CEO, The Wildlife Trusts

Beccy Speight, CEO, RSPB

Hilary McGrady, Director General, The National Trust

Darren Moorcroft, CEO, The Woodland Trust

Ross Maloney, CEO, The Ramblers

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

Helen Browning, CEO, The Soil Association

Steve Andrews, CEO, Earthwatch Europe

Julie Williams, CEO, Butterfly Conservation

Chris Sherwood, CEO, RSPCA

Jill Nelson, Chief Executive, PTES

Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, Open Spaces Society

Paul Davies, CEO, The British Mountaineering Council

Dr Anna Watson, CHEM Trust

Professor Jeremy Biggs, CEO, Freshwater Habitats Trust

Sarah Carr, CEO, Naturewatch Foundation

Areeba Hamid and Will McCallum, joint executive directors, Greenpeace UK

Matt Shardlow, CEO, Buglife

Rosalind Forbes Adam, Founder, Director of Projects, The Woodmeadow Trust

Nick Measham, CEO, WildFish

Mark Lloyd, CEO, The Rivers Trust

Andy Lester, Head of Conservation, A Rocha UK

Dr Stephen Head, Founder Patron, Wildlife Gardening Forum

Dr Mark Jones, Head of Policy, Born Free Foundation

Dr Mark Avery and Dr Ruth Tingay, co-directors, Wild Justice

Chris Butler-Stroud, CEO, Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Darren York, CEO, The Conservation Volunteers

Ian Dunn, CEO, Plantlife

Andy Knott MBE, CEO, League Against Cruel Sports

Sandy Luk, CEO, Marine Conservation Society

Ashley Metcalf, CEO, British Canoeing

Rose O'Neill, CEO, Campaign for National Parks

Dr Hazel Norman, CEO, British Ecological Society

Vicky Ellis, General Manager, CPRE Kent

Allison Ogden-Newton, CEO, Keep Britain Tidy

Prof Alastair Driver, Director, Rewilding Britain

Stuart Singleton-White, Head of Campaigns, The Angling Trust

Dr Tony Gent, CEO, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Kit Stoner, CEO, Bat Conservation Trust

David Bunt, CEO, Institute of Fisheries Management

Sonul Badiani-Hammet, UK Country Director, FOUR PAWS UK

Neil Redfern, Executive Director, Council for British Archaeology

Amy Slack, Head of Campaigns and Policy, Surfers Against Sewage

Gill Perkins, CEO, Bumblebee Conservation Trust

James Blake, CEO, YHA (England and Wales)

Jamie Christon, CEO, Chester Zoo

Shaun Spiers, Director, Green Alliance

Dr Richard Benwell, CEO, Wildlife & Countryside Link