



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

The Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/decc

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9 December 2015

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November, enclosing an example of correspondence you have received from a number of your constituents, calling on the UK Government to do more to tackle climate change.

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our world. It is not just a threat to the environment. It is also a threat to national and global security, poverty eradication and economic prosperity. That is why the UK is taking action domestically to reduce emissions and why securing an ambitious global climate deal is a priority for the Government. The Prime Minister and I are committed to this and attended the opening of the COP where, alongside President Hollande, President Obama and over 150 world leaders, have called for delivery of an ambitious agreement at the start of these vital two weeks of negotiations.

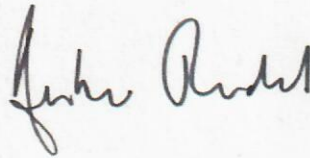
Progress has already been made in the lead up to Paris. Over 180 countries, covering over 94% of global emissions and representing over 90% of the global economy have come forward with national commitments to reduce emissions. This demonstrates unprecedented engagement and illustrates the scope and breadth of national-level action to be implemented following a deal. These commitments are a significant move from business as usual. But we know that this alone will not be enough to keep the goal of limiting the average global temperature increase to below 2°C within reach.

There is also political will for a deal. At the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Leaders' released a positive Climate Action statement with ambitious text on a long term goal, review and transparency. This provides the right momentum going into Paris.

Over the next week the UK will be seeking to ensure that the final Agreement keeps the below 2°C global goal alive, has a binding legal mechanism so that we can measure and verify what happens with the commitments made and a five year review cycle so we can increase ambition. We also need to ensure that the deal supports the most vulnerable in terms of finance and helps encourage technology transfer.

And it is clear that even with an Agreement in Paris, this will not be the end of the story – we will need to keep up the momentum to ensure the Agreement is implemented and that we continue to drive forward the transition to a low carbon economy and the opportunities that presents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Rudd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AMBER RUDD