**

*Name and address of sender*

Dear *add name of your Parliamentary Candidate*,

**Will you support urgent action on climate change?**

I am writing as a resident and voter in your constituency and a member of the South East Climate Alliance (SECA). Together we are campaigning for all parliamentary constituencies in the South East to actively engage in tackling the Climate Emergency that was recently declared by Parliament. We would like to get your active support in implementing the necessary measures should you be elected as our local MP.

**We are in a Climate Emergency**

On 1st May this year, Parliament recognised that we are in the middle of a climate emergency (see below 1). Parliament requested that Government publish urgent proposals within 6 months. This has not happened. The IPCC tells us that we have only 11 years to act.

So far, 80% of local authorities in the South East have passed their own Climate Emergency motions (2). Many of them have set targets to become carbon neutral by 2030. They all need legislation and resources from central government to act urgently and on a large scale.

**What can you do as a parliamentary candidate?**

* You can publicly confirm that, if elected, you will promote and support the actions needed to implement Parliament’s Climate Emergency declaration and those of your local Council(s). The text of the Parliamentary declaration is set out at the end of this letter.
* To publicise your support, you can download and sign our **Pledge Card** (3). We suggest you take a photo of yourself holding it up, and share it on social media. Please email a copy to SECA so we can keep track of who has signed the pledge, and tag us in Facebook or Twitter using the details below.
* You can find more about climate issues and the actions that Government and councils can take in the **Resources for Councils** section of the SECA website.

Polls suggest that more than half of people say climate change will influence the way they vote and 63% agree that politicians are not discussing the issue of climate change enough. We can all read the national party manifestos, but we look forward to receiving your specific support for the necessary actions in Parliament and in your prospective constituency. We will be publishing responses so that voters can be fully aware of candidates’ views.

Thank you, we look forward to receiving your pledge,

*Add your name, and (if relevant) the local group you are representing*

In affiliation with the South East Climate Alliance

*Notes:*

(1) Climate Emergency Motion passed by Parliament on 1st May 2019:

“That this House

* + declares an environment and climate emergency following the finding of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change that to avoid a more than 1.5°C rise in global warming, global emissions would need to fall by around 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050; recognises the devastating impact that volatile and extreme weather will have on UK food production, water availability, public health and through flooding and wildfire damage;
  + notes that the UK is currently missing almost all of its biodiversity targets, with an alarming trend in species decline, and that cuts of 50 per cent to the funding of Natural England are counterproductive to tackling those problems;
  + calls on the Government to increase the ambition of the UK’s climate change targets under the Climate Change Act 2008 to achieve net zero emissions before 2050, to increase support for and set ambitious, short-term targets for the roll-out of renewable and low carbon energy and transport, and to move swiftly to capture economic opportunities and green jobs in the low carbon economy while managing risks for workers and communities currently reliant on carbon intensive sectors;
  + and further calls on the Government to lay before the House within the next six months urgent proposals to restore the UK’s natural environment and to deliver a circular, zero waste economy.”

(2) See <http://bit.ly/CEprogress> for a summary of which councils in the South East have declared a climate emergency or passed a meaningful climate motion

(3) Download the pledge card from <http://bit.ly/pledgeCE>

**(4) About the South East Climate Alliance (SECA)**

SECA is a coalition of over 60 environment, community and faith groups across the South East of England uniting for urgent action on climate change. We are non-political group and are working with all parties to encourage climate action.

Website: ***www.seclimatealliance.uk***

Twitter: ***@SECA\_UK***

Facebook: ***@seclimatealliance***

Email: ***southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com***