



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Emily Payne – Year 8
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Our Ref: CC4867

11 January 2021

Dear Emily,

Thank you very much for your letter. It is fantastic to read about your passion for our environment. I am a passionate environmentalist myself and improving it is one of my top priorities as East Surrey's MP, so I am very grateful for your ideas on how to do this.

I completely agree with you that climate change is one of the greatest challenges we face, and from my conversations with the Prime Minister, I can assure you that he recognises the importance and urgency of action on this issue. I am very proud that the UK was the first country to legislate to eliminate our contribution to climate change by 2050, and the fastest in the G20 to cut emissions. When we achieve net zero, the UK will have eliminated its contribution to climate change, which as of December 2019 accounted for 1.2 per cent of global emissions.

You're right, deforestation is something in particular we need to tackle. In every way we depend on the natural world around us. Forests cool the planet, provide clean air and water, and are a sanctuary for some of the most endangered species on Earth – and so protecting them must be a core priority. I am therefore pleased that a new law will be introduced in the Government's Environment Bill which will go further than ever before to clamp down on illegal deforestation. I know the Prime Minister will call for further global efforts to tackle deforestation at the United Nations Climate Change Conference this year (COP26). When the UK hosts COP26 in Glasgow this year, we will bring together world leaders, climate experts, business leaders and citizens to agree ambitious world action to tackle climate change.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me. Hopefully I will meet you in East Surrey in the future where we can talk about this more.

Very best wishes,
Claire

Member of Parliament for East Surrey