

Dear [INSERT MP NAME],

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth, and almost half of Surrey's most notable species are in decline. This is why I am increasingly alarmed about the Planning & Infrastructure Bill, which breaks essential principles of environmental law and risks undermining our vital natural infrastructure.

While the Bill promises large-scale nature restoration alongside development, I am concerned about the fundamental principles which are dismantled through the Part 3 of the Bill. In its current form, a 'Nature Restoration Levy' would diminish the status of nature in law, by removing three key pillars of effective environmental governance – the precautionary principle, the mitigation hierarchy and the polluter pays principle. Any changes to the planning system must safeguard these principles, to ensure nature's restoration can truly be delivered.

The success of the Nature Restoration Fund created through the Levy also hinges on the capacity and capability of Natural England to develop Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs), ensure delivery and monitor effectiveness. With resources increasingly squeezed, and the Levy being subject to economic viability tests, the effectiveness of Natural England as a delivery and regulatory body is brought into question – with nature most likely to suffer the consequences.

The Government must recognise the vital importance of nature, not just for biodiversity – but also for health & wellbeing, water security, climate change resilience and future prosperity. They must also recognise that nature is not a blocker to growth – it's an essential pre-requisite. We cannot afford to sacrifice long-term environmental integrity for short-term gains.

I urge you to push for a pause and rethink of the most problematic elements of Part 3, as well as supporting key improvements to other parts of the Bill, including the chalk streams amendment tabled by Chris Hinchliff MP. In Parliament, I ask that you to champion a planning system which truly delivers for nature and people.

Best wishes,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR ADDRESS]