



Environmental Audit Committee

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Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing St
London SW1A 2AA

24 January 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The scientific evidence is unequivocal. The effects of climate change are already being felt in the UK, with each of the last four years setting new average temperature records, rising sea levels and an increased risk of flooding. Limiting these effects will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. Successive studies have concluded that the benefits of strong, early action on climate change outweigh the costs of inaction.

The UK is respected by countries around the world for its leadership on climate change. In 2008 we passed the world's first Climate Change Act and in 2015 we played a crucial role in securing the Paris Agreement. Since you have taken office, you have upheld the UK's cross-party consensus to tackling climate change by ratifying the Paris Agreement in the UK. Your meeting with the new President of the United States on Friday presents you with an opportunity to demonstrate your personal commitment to this issue and ensure the US maintains its pledge to the world to take ambitious efforts to combat climate change.

We, on the Committee, have grave concerns about the new President's views on climate change and his reported plans to abandon the Paris Agreement, undermining global efforts to mitigate climate change. As one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions, his approach to reducing emissions could determine whether we, in the UK and people around the world, experience or avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

You have said you will not be afraid to challenge the new President if he says something unacceptable. As the first head of government to meet the new President, we ask you to use that unique opportunity to impress upon him the importance of this subject to our common future. You could utilise some of the UK's world class scientific experts in the UK Met Office and other research institutions to assist with your endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Creagh MP, Chair
Environmental Audit Committee