

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

24 August 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

**Agriculture Bill presents a once in a generation opportunity to secure public goods for society**

We wholly welcome the ambitious plans your Government has set out to reform agriculture policy, and overcome the flaws of the Common Agricultural Policy. Central to this ambition is your ground-breaking commitment to develop new farming and land management policies that provide public funds in return for public goods, such as biodiversity, animal welfare and public access.

This summer is a defining moment for the future of our countryside, with drought highlighting the many shared challenges wildlife and farmers face. An ambitious Agriculture Bill that works for the environment, public health and animal welfare, and helps create a farming sector fit for the future, will be crucial if we are to meet these challenges in the years ahead.

Such ambition is good for the public, fair to the taxpayer and, most importantly, critical to bolstering farming's resilience in the face of climate change, ensuring the country's long-term food security by protecting our soils, pollinators and water. This is not a choice between productivity and sustainability, but an opportunity to avoid declining productivity by restoring the natural resources that farming depends upon.

There is also public appetite for more sustainable, higher welfare agriculture. The scale of the response to the recent Environmental Principles and Governance Bill consultation was unprecedented, and recent polls by the RSPCA and WWF demonstrated that over 80% of the British public want more support for higher standards of animal welfare, and for nature friendly farming.

Making sure that the Agriculture Bill enables farmers to deliver against these expectations will be the first signal that you are determined to match your welcome 25 Year Environment Plan commitments with firm action. Innovative farmers are already demonstrating how working with nature can be profitable as



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well as rewarding. But for this to become the norm, farmers need support to drive forward the restoration of our environment for the next generation, including the next generation of farmers whose livelihoods will depend on its health and resilience.

Farmers should also get a better return from the market for the food they produce. As such, in addition to public money for public goods, the Agriculture Bill should include powers to secure a fair and transparent supply chain that ensures a level playing field for all.

The UK's exit from the European Union creates inevitable uncertainty. In providing clarity now that future farm support will be centred around public goods, you can provide certainty and confidence that you are up for the challenge of securing a healthy, accessible environment and well looked after animals, alongside a thriving and self-reliant farming sector.

The chance to reform agriculture policy, and to secure all the benefits this would provide, is a once in a generation opportunity. We welcome the leadership you have shown so far on this issue, and look forward to working with you as the Agriculture Bill delivers on these commitments.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary McGrady, Director General, National Trust

Shirley Cramer CBE, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health

Mike Clarke, Chief Executive, RSPB

Martin Lines, UK Chair, Nature Friendly Farming Network

Steph Hilborne, Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts

Jyoti Fernandez, Chair of Directors, The Landworker's Alliance

Tanya Steele, Chief Executive Officer, WWF-UK

Helen Browning, Chief Executive, Soil Association

Liz May, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Traidcraft

Chris Sherwood, Chief Executive, RSPCA

Cóilín Nunan, Campaign Manager, Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics

Dr Tony Gent, Chief Executive Officer, The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust

Andy Atkins, Chief Executive, A Rocha UK

Dominic Dyer, Chief Executive Officer, Badger Trust



Kit Stoner, Chief Executive, Bat Conservation Trust

Howard Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Born Free Foundation

David Turnbull, Chief Executive, British Mountaineering Council

Matt Shardlow, Chief Executive Officer, Buglife

Julie Williams, Chief Executive, Butterfly Conservation

David Joy, Chief Executive, British Canoeing

Fiona Howie, Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks

James Thornton, Chief Executive Officer, ClientEarth

Philip Lymbery, Chief Executive, Compassion in World Farming

Dr. Mike Heyworth, Director, Council for British Archaeology

Crispin Truman OBE, Chief Executive, CPRE

Mike Baker, Chief Executive Officer, The Donkey Sanctuary

James Morford, Chairman, Family Farmers' Association

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Brian da Cal, Country Director, Four Paws UK

Dr Jeremy Biggs, Director, Freshwater Habitats Trust

Craig Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, Friends of the Earth

Liz O'Neill, Director, GM Freeze

John Sauven, Executive Director, Greenpeace UK

Claire Bass, Executive Director, Humane Society International UK

David Bunt, Chair, Institute of Fisheries Management

Sandy Luk, Chief Executive Officer, Marine Conservation Society

Caroline Ruane, Chief Executive Officer, Naturewatch Foundation

Miatta Fahnbulleh, Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation

Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, Open Spaces Society



Roger Kerr, Chief Executive, Organic Farmers and Growers

Keith Tyrell, Director, PAN UK

Russ Carrington, General Manager, Pasture fed Livestock Association

Jill Nelson, Chief Executive, People's Trust for Endangered Species

Marian Spain, Chief Executive, Plantlife

Vanessa Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, Ramblers

Colin Tudge, Trustee, The Real Farming Trust

Rebecca Wrigley, Chief Executive, Rewilding Britain

Paul Knight, Chief Executive Officer, Salmon & Trout Conservation

Kath Dalmeny, Chief Executive, Sustain

Patrick Holden, Founding Director, Sustainable Food Trust

Arlin Rickard, Chief Executive, The Rivers Trust

Martin Spray CBE, Chief Executive Officer, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Beccy Speight, Chief Executive, Woodland Trust

Stephen Sibbald, Country Director, UK Office, World Animal Protection

Dominic Jerney, Director General, Zoological Society of London

CC: Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Please direct any reply to:

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