



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7048

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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the Well-Being of Future Generations Bill.

Caroline Lucas and Lord Bird have brought forward Private Member's Bills with the objective of putting sustainable thinking at the heart of public policy decisions, so I'd like to assure you that the well-being of future generations is at the heart of UK Government policy. Indeed, we are the first major industrialised country to have set a legal target for zero carbon emissions.

These Bills follow the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act which was introduced in Wales in 2015. This legislation imposes obligations to act in accordance with a sustainable development principle. Future Generations Commissioner, Sophie Howe, is charged with monitoring the implementation of these obligations in Wales.

I do not believe, however, that the Bill as it stands provides the right mechanism for achieving these important objectives and I have reservations about creating a new public body with additional duties. The Government has, however, listened carefully to the arguments made in support of the Bill and I can also assure you that it remains committed to promoting the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the country.

I wish to congratulate Lord Bird in particular whose approach to difficult issues in society is thoughtful and considered. I believe that the work of the Parliament is much improved by his contribution and I am much encouraged by his efforts.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY