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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about 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.

It is absolutely right that there should be sustainable thinking in Government, and I would like to assure you that the well-being of future generations is at the heart of UK Government policy. We are the first major industrialised country to have set a legal target for zero carbon emissions and I welcome the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan which will allow the UK to forge ahead in eradicating the UK's contribution to climate change.

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. I also have reservations about creating a new public body with additional duties. The Government has 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 and I believe that the work of this Parliament is much improved by his contribution.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY