

The Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

The Joinery,  
34 Drayton Park,  
London N5 1PB,  
United Kingdom

26 October 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

Warm congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister: I wish you all the very best for your tenure in what is a challenging time, both for the UK and the wider world.

I am writing as CEO of ClientEarth, a legal environmental NGO that uses advocacy, capacity building and strategic litigation to protect climate, nature and people. Our litigation successes in the UK include our 2015 challenge to the Government on illegal levels of air pollution in the UK; and our recent challenge to the UK's Net Zero Strategy, which the High Court ruled was not compliant with the 2008 Climate Change Act.

Like others in the environmental movement, ClientEarth was deeply concerned by policies of the previous administration, including proposed environmental deregulation for investment zones, lifting the moratorium on fracking, and issuing new oil and gas exploration licences.

We warmly welcome your commitment, as Prime Minister, to deliver on the promises of the 2019 manifesto, and look forward to seeing the Government deliver on 'the most ambitious environmental programme on Earth', including through the restoration of wildlife and habitats as set out in the Environment Act; a sustainable plan for the future of farming based on public money for public goods; and a commitment to 30% of land and sea for nature and biodiversity by 2030. In that context we urge you to urgently review the Retained EU Law Bill, which threatens to undermine legislation designed to protect our environment, keep our air and water clean, and protect people's health. We would also ask that you reconsider the roll out of investment zones and the associated environmental deregulation.

We look forward to you building on the UK's ambition and leadership on climate change and the green transition – both domestically and internationally. Domestically, we are clear that the energy crisis cannot be separated from the climate crisis, and there is an opportunity to address both in tandem: by reducing our reliance on gas, by insulating our homes and buildings, and accelerating the transition to renewables. The UK is already a world leader in offshore wind, and is well-placed to build on this success, and become a net exporter of renewable energy.

We also very much hope to see you sustain the UK's record of international leadership on climate action, including through its COP26 Presidency. Your presence at COP27 will do much to reassure international partners that the UK remains a reliable partner on climate action; and will help ensure that, collectively, we deliver on the commitments made in Glasgow. We have no time to lose.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Clarke OBE  
CEO, ClientEarth

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ClientEarth is an environmental law charity, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, company number 02863827, registered charity number 1053988, registered office 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BE, a registered international non-profit organisation in Belgium, ClientEarth AISBL, enterprise number 0714.925.038, a registered company in Germany, ClientEarth gGmbH, HRB 202487 B, a registered non-profit organisation in Luxembourg, ClientEarth ASBL, registered number F11366, a registered foundation in Poland, Fundacja ClientEarth Poland, KRS 0000364218, NIP 701025 4208, a registered 501(c)(3) organisation in the US, ClientEarth US, EIN 81-0722756, a registered subsidiary in China, ClientEarth Beijing Representative Office, Registration No. G1110000MA0095H836. ClientEarth is registered on the EU Transparency register number: 96645517357-19. Our goal is to use the power of the law to develop legal strategies and tools to address environmental issues.