Dear [name of MP],

**Please ensure we seize the opportunity to halt biodiversity loss!**

We face an urgent nature and climate crisis. More than one in ten species in England are on the brink of extinction and the UK is amongst the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

The Government has repeatedly spoken of its ambition to pass on nature in a better condition to the next generation. However, I am concerned that the Government’s proposals within the Nature Recovery Green Paper and the Environment Act targets will leave wildlife worse off and fail to bring about the change we need to restore nature.

The Government has a unique opportunity to halt the decline in biodiversity and expand nature-based solutions to climate change. These are the changes that need to be made to support nature’s recovery:

**1. A stronger species abundance target**

The target to increase the abundance of wildlife by 10% by 2042 compared to 2030 levels is too weak and too uncertain. If, as expected, wildlife continues to decline for the rest of the decade, it could mean that wildlife is less abundant by 2042 than it is now.

**Instead, the Government should set a target to increase the abundance of species by at least 20% by 2042 compared to 2022 levels.**

**2. A target for the condition of our protected sites**

At the moment in Staffordshire just 33% of our SSSIs – these are our best sites for nature – are in favourable condition. This means that two thirds of sites in our county are not in the best condition they can be to support wildlife. The extent and quality of habitats are crucial to nature’s recovery.

**The Government should set a habitats target for at least 75% of our finest wildlife sites to be in ‘favourable’ condition by 2042. We need to improve the quality, size and quantity of our sites if we want nature to recover.**

**3. An overall target for water**

We have some of the worst-quality rivers in Europe. In England, only 14% of rivers achieve ‘good ecological status’. Pollution from agriculture, sewage, roads and plastics is destroying freshwater habitats and making our rivers dangerous for both humans and wildlife.

**The Government should set a long-term target for at least 75% of rivers, streams and other freshwater bodies to reach an overall “clean waters” status by 2042, in addition to stronger targets for pollution reduction and abstraction reduction.**

**I am asking you, on my behalf, to speak to Rt Hon George Eustice MP, Environment Secretary, and ask him to include these stronger targets within the Nature Recovery Green Paper and Environment Act targets.**

I should be grateful if you would reply to my letter and let me know what you will do to support more ambitious legally-binding targets to help restore nature in our country.

Yours sincerely,

**[Include your full name and address, so your MP can see that you live in their constituency]**