Dear

As a voter in your constituency, I write to ensure you’re aware of the value to your local communities and businesses of the wetland landscapes in our area.

Water supply, flood defence and pollution control are all key roles provided to your constituents, for free, by local wetlands. Wetlands provide these services by storing water, filtering it and releasing it slowly. These services are worth at least £7bn to the economy every year, according to Government figures, and that includes a contribution to your local economy.

Wetlands are also important for our health. Studies show that being near water helps people to recuperate faster, and being around nature reduces stress levels. That’s why wetlands attract thousands of tourists to your area, who want to be somewhere that makes them feel good.

Yet few people are aware of this value, which is how we’ve lost 90% of wetlands from much of the UK in the last 400 years. By losing those wetlands, we’ve inadvertently added to our flood, drought and pollution problems because wetlands help provide the natural antidote to all these problems, as well as being inspiring places to relax in and enjoy.

Please find attached WWT’s “wetland manifesto”, which highlights how wetlands can solve issues like flood and drought in a sustainable way that works for people and wildlife. A small wetland can efficiently treat pollution flowing from a farm or factory, or stormwater pouring off the roof of a housing development, and produce a much more attractive result for people and wildlife than more expensive ‘hard’ engineering.

I hope this gives you a useful introduction to the main issues facing wetlands, especially at this time as you’re preparing for the forthcoming general election.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I sincerely hope you will bear the Wetland Manifesto in mind during the election campaign and beyond. I would be interested to hear your thoughts, as this will play a role in deciding how I vote in May.

Yours sincerely