



22nd February 2024

Claire Coutinho MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear Claire

Ref: Food Security

I wrote to you on the 31st January to share my objections to the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm which will directly, profoundly and negatively impact my home and living environment.

It is with interest that I heard from colleagues who attended this week's NFU Conference that the Prime Minister was also in attendance and presented to the assembled; a first since 2008. You may well have been there too.

He made 3 key pledges:

1. Every penny of the £2.4bn farm support package agreed under the CAP would be spent on agriculture
2. The schemes themselves would be simpler and more generous
3. To drive food security there would be an annual food security index with a mandatory report to Parliament and an annual 'farm to fork' cross industry summit

On face value, these steps make sense to the industry and might help arrest the decline in rural support for the Conservatives.

However, it is hard to understand how the Government will 'drive food security' when thousands of acres of productive agricultural land are being committed to and being covered with solar panels for many decades.

Solar panels should be on the roofs of houses and buildings where the power will be consumed and without compromising the fields in which our food is grown or the living environment.

I trust that you will do all you can to protect the finite land resource we have and reject the approaches by developers looking to make a quick buck.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of David Alliston.

David Alliston