



Ed Miliband
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2EG

14th July 2024

Dear Ed

Proposal for Lime Down Solar Farm in Wiltshire

I first met you in October 2009, at the premiere for the feature film, *The Age of Stupid*, in the lead-up to the Copenhagen COP15 climate summit. At the time I was halfway through a 7-year project to row solo across the world's oceans, using my voyages to highlight the environmental crisis, so I trust there is no doubting my commitment to the environmental cause.

I am writing now as the newly-elected Member of Parliament for the South Cotswolds, to raise serious questions prompted by the proposed Lime Down Solar Park development, related battery storage development, and the laying of a 19-mile cable to connect to the National Grid. This proposed development is slated for construction in a beautiful part of rural northern Wiltshire within my constituency.

I see that on Friday you approved three massive solar farms in the East of England, despite local opposition and concerns over safety and food security, so I am deeply concerned as to what your position on Lime Down may be.

However, I also see that you have expressed a desire to unleash a "UK solar rooftop revolution", and I would like to strongly endorse and support rooftop and brownfield solar in preference to greenfield sites such as Lime Down.

In addition, I would like to respectfully request that you:

1. Prioritise the creation of a national strategy for renewable energy infrastructure that seeks to protect greenfield, agricultural locations
2. Support the urgent development of local, community-owned renewable energy schemes as put forward in the Local Electricity Bill, and support this bill becoming law
3. Allow local communities and elected councillors and authorities to have their say on such developments
4. Require any renewable energy and battery storage development to pay a community support levy to benefit local communities and council areas impacted by such developments

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5. Require local authorities to develop published strategies, subject to full public consultation, to set out and identify suitable sites for such developments - preferably brownfield or rooftop, smaller scale, and close to the point of consumption
6. Require renewable energy developers to offer much reduced tariffs to local residents and businesses
7. Ensure that national, regional and local strategies for renewable energy and battery storage developments are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments and Impact Assessments on food provision and security if such developments are taking place on land in current agricultural use or designated for such use
8. Ensure that the materials used are ethically sourced, and do not compromise the potential of developing countries to meet their own future energy needs
9. Require any such developers to be registered for tax either in the United Kingdom or a well-regulated and transparent tax authority
10. Subject to scrutiny and a "fit and proper persons" test the funders of the companies undertaking such developments

I would be happy to discuss any of these points in more detail in a meeting at a time to suit you.

Yours sincerely

Roz Savage

Dr Rosalind Savage MBE
Member of Parliament for South Cotswolds (Liberal Democrat)