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

30th September 2024

Dear Ed,

Proposal for Lime Down Solar Park in Wiltshire

I am writing to you again as I have received no response to my letter of 14th July, asking for clarification of your view on the proposed Lime Down Solar Park in the South Cotswolds (copied below for your convenience). I would very much like to meet you to discuss this potential development.

I propose that we find a way forward that reconciles the UK's need to reach Net Zero with the need of local residents to have a say in large-scale developments that impact on their communities and their countryside. Yes, it is both urgent and important that we decarbonise at scale and speed, but I believe there are ways to do this sensitively, in a way that won't evoke a strong negative response from local communities. This is a long-term project of 15 to 20 years, and a successful transition to renewables will depend public engagement and inclusion in order to avoid a potential future backlash.

As an environmental campaigner for the past 20 years, and the first woman to row solo across three oceans (the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian), specifically to raise awareness of environmental issues, my commitment to a sustainable future is not in doubt. It goes without saying that I understand and support the need to convert to green energy. And I also believe that this can be done in a manner that will respect local sensitivities and valid concerns over safety.

I very much hope that you will be open to an initial meeting during October to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Roz Savage

MP for the South Cotswolds