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To: The Prime Minister,

10 Downing Street,

London, SW1 2AA

To: All honourable members of Parliament

18 July 2022

Dear Prime Minister and all honourable Members of Parliament

We refer to our letters to the prime minister on 12 February and 28 October last year.

In the first of our two letters we wrote in support of Dr James E. Hansen who had urged you and the UK to truly lead on climate action and prevent the opening of a new coal mine in Cumbria.

We are currently experiencing turbulent times but these will pale into insignificance against what is coming down the track due to climate change. All our current politicians must be aware they will be called to account for their actions, or inaction, in the face of the Climate and Ecological Crisis not only at the ballot box in the near future but also by their children and grandchildren in the living room and around the breakfast table.

In recent weeks the Climate Change Committee's chairman Lord Deben said "in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, the country is crying out to end its dependence on expensive fossil fuels" and as far "as the coal mine in Cumbria is concerned, let's be absolutely clear, it is absolutely indefensible".

The decision on this coal mine is coming around again and we urge you, all members of the cabinet and all members of Parliament to ensure this is not allowed to open. Britain, relative to most other countries of the World, is a leader in climate action. To allow this coal mine to open would totally undermine this leadership and would be a big step backwards into a murky fossil fuelled past.

Prime Minister and honourable Members of Parliament, we call on you to serve the British people and people all over the World through strong, honest, committed climate leadership. Leadership that follows the science taking determined action to keep us all safe from the worst ravages of the climate catastrophe.

The World's scientists are outside the window in the street screaming alarm at the top of their voices. It is now up to those in power to open their windows and listen to these voices before it is simply too late.

Every member of the government, every single MP and every other elected politician in the UK must step up, heed the warnings of the scientists and act to protect their constituents and residents before the World breaches tipping points and it becomes too late. 1.5C has been seen as a safety line not to be crossed. To have any chance of playing its part in the fight to remain under (or even to return to) 1.5C the UK must reach carbon zero significantly in advance of 2050, ideally by 2030.

The time for empty commitments for the distant future of 2050 is over. Large-scale, rapid, transformative changes in our economy, society and politics are necessary on a timescale of superhuman speed. Inertia must be overcome to ensure that essential and massive action is urgently taken. Our short-term action or inaction will determine our common future. The science is clear and irrefutable; humanity is already in advanced ecological overshoot.

In the World Scientists Warnings into Action paper issued at COP26 our colleagues stated how "many climate scientists fear that the 1.5 or 2.0 C degree Paris targets are insufficient and will push us irreversibly onto a Hothouse Earth pathway" and that "the carbon and heat already trapped in our oceans and atmosphere guarantee that we will exceed 1.5C. Too many leaders are willing to risk catastrophe when it will be another's problem."

We ask you, Prime Minister and all elected politicians, "Are you are willing to risk catastrophe because it will be another's problem?" We urge you to show true integrity and hugely accelerate the investment in action in the UK.

This should not be seen as a loss leading squandering of hard earned British pounds, as some may have us believe, but more as a prudent investment into the national business endeavour with only two possible results 'win' or 'win win'.

By truly leading and taking first mover advantage, with an early carbon zero target, the UK would be able to benefit from the economic growth that would most certainly come from being the first major economy to reach net zero. If the UK reached carbon zero in 2030 it would find itself in a seller's market. Every other country of the World must eventually take the same trajectory and would inevitably wish to buy Britain's off the shelf solutions rather than reinvent, at great cost, their own climate innovation wheels. As the financial centre of the World the City of London would facilitate the World's race to zero after having successfully enabled the UK economy to get there in the first place.

All the while we urge you to ensure no more coal mines are opened in the UK.

Yours faithfully



Ed Gemmell, Managing Director, Scientists Warning Europe

For and on behalf of

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Professor Tim Lenton, Director of the Global Systems Institute and Chair in Climate Change and Earth System Science at the University of Exeter

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