

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW

12th May 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

We, the undersigned, urge you to delay setting the Fifth Carbon Budget until EU member states have concluded their negotiations over CO2 targets for 2030.

The Committee on Climate Change has recommended that the Government adopt a CO2 reduction target of 57% for the period 2028 to 2032, compared to 1990 levels. By contrast, the EU has committed to reduce the aggregate emissions of member states by 40% by 2030 below the 1990 level.

This reduction is not legally binding on individual EU member states who are now due to enter 'burden-sharing' negotiations to agree how much of this reduction each country will undertake.

If the UK unilaterally commits to a 57% reduction before these negotiations are complete we would simply reduce the burden to be shared out among other member states.

Our extra effort would result in no extra reduction in CO2 emissions across Europe as a whole – just a higher burden on British business and a lower burden on our competitors.

The Fifth Carbon Budget is due to be set by the 30th June 2016; however, it is unlikely that EU negotiations will have concluded by then.

We urge you to deliver on your recent promise that the government's new climate policy will no longer pursue a solitary path, but "travel in step with what is happening in the rest of the world", so that energy bills remain affordable for households, businesses remain competitive, and the economy remains secure.



We agree that the UK's de-carbonisation targets make no sense in the absence of other EU member states adopting equally binding caps.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Heaton-Harris MP
Andrew Bridgen MP
Christopher Chope MP
Phillip Davies MP
Stewart Jackson MP
David Nuttall MP
The Rt Hon John Redwood MP
Sammy Wilson MP

Steve Baker MP
Douglas Carswell MP
David Davies MP
Richard Drax MP
The Rt. Hon Peter Lilley MP
The Rt. Hon Owen Paterson MP
Graham Stringer MP