

Bill Wiggin MP <officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk>

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Dear Mrs Tinson

Thank you for giving me sight of your letter to the Minister.

A number of my constituents have written to me regarding the Environment Bill, specifically the Lords Amendment no. 45 regarding storm overflows and sewage in our waterways.

I would like to assure you that cleaning up our waterways is an issue I have long been campaigning for.

In Herefordshire I am working to resolve the issue of phosphates polluting the River Wye, and I recently co-signed a letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, making the case for funding to address this issue be included in the Spending review.

You may view this letter by clicking [here](#).

I have also been a co-sponsor to The Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill, put forward by Phillip Dunne MP, and I am glad the Government has committed to working with us to tackle this issue head on.

It is for these reasons that I did not vote against this amendment, and instead chose to abstain.

In our letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Jesse Norman MP and I have asked for the Government to consider granting £10-15 million to cleaning up the River Wye in the Autumn Spending Review which is to be announced on Wednesday.

We therefore believed it would be prudent not to vote against the Government on this issue when we are working towards the same goal and negotiations on the specifics of the legislation are far from over.

By abstaining I have been reasonable with the Government and not endangered our request for funding, but I have made clear my views on the matter and not been complicit in the vote against the Lords amendment.

I have received a Dear Colleague letter from Rebecca Pow MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in which she explains how the Government intend on tackling water quality and storm overflows. Once again, you may view it by clicking [here](#).

While I could not vote outrightly against the amendment for the reasons I have listed above, I do recognise the Government are prepared to tackle this issue in the Environment Bill.

Since I wrote this letter, the Government have announced an additional amendment to the Environment Bill which will place a duty on water companies to secure a progressive reduction in the adverse impacts of discharges from storm overflows. If you would like to read more about this, you can do so by clicking the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-bill-further-strengthened-to-tackle-storm-overflows>

I trust this will come as welcome news, and I will continue to follow this matter closely to ensure the issue of pollution in our rivers and waterways is thoroughly addressed.

I hope you have found this email helpful in explaining my views on this matter.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

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