

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

AGRICULTURE BILL

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write to me regarding their concerns about the Agriculture Bill and the UK's future trade deals.

Current EU regulations mean that we in the UK can be assured that the food we import is produced to a high standard using safe production methods. Moreover, Britain has consistently exceeded EU standards in a wide range of policy areas.

However, the lack of provision in the Agriculture Bill of controls over production methods in countries from which the UK imports food poses the risk that trade deals conducted following Brexit will see the importation of food products that do not meet our standards.

Along with fellow Labour MPs, I voted to decline a second reading of the Agriculture Bill, in part because it failed to provide for those controls over production methods and animal welfare in countries from which the UK imports food.

Labour has been clear that it will oppose any measure that would take advantage of Brexit to lower regulatory standards in the UK. The UK has a long record of exceeding minimum European standards across a number of policy areas, and we are committed to ensuring that this remains the case after Britain leaves the EU.

Thanks again to everyone who has taken the time to contact me on this issue.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

Richard Burden MP
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