

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

**LET NATURE SING**

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to contact me about the forthcoming Environment Bill and the RSPB's #LetNatureSing campaign.

The RSPB's campaign, which you can read more about [here](#), is an excellent way of raising awareness about the wider environmental crisis that is affecting nature and our planet as a whole. Through recent protests up and down the country, including at Westminster, we have seen how important an issue the environment is for so many people – and rightly so. It is now up to parliamentarians to ensure that adequate protections for nature are put in place.

Last year, the Government introduced draft clauses of its forthcoming Environment Bill, which aims to fill the gap in environmental governance that we may see after Brexit, given that currently much of the environment legislation that applies in the UK is EU legislation. While the introduction of this Bill is a positive step, a number of concerns have been raised regarding its content. Two committees that have reviewed the Bill have said that the Bill is deficient, and is a step backwards in comparison to current provisions. There is no provision for the proposed Office for Environmental Protection to impose fines, and climate change mitigation has been excluded from the scope of the definition of environmental law.

Along with other NGOs, the RSPB has been clear that the forthcoming Environment Bill must tackle the biodiversity crisis with adequate funding, an independent watchdog charged with upholding environment targets, and robust incentives to promote practices such as nature-friendly farming. A Labour Government will put climate change mitigation and biodiversity at the heart of its agenda by introducing an Environmental Tribunal that can hold Government fully to account. In the meantime, I will continue to work with fellow MPs to press the Government on this issue.

Thanks again to everyone who has contacted me on this issue.

Best wishes,

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

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Birmingham Northfield

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