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13th March 2018

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing St
London
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Dear Prime Minister,

We stand united with the National Trust against INEOS and the threat of fracking in the UK

We are writing to you today to outline our growing concerns over the potential exploration and development of shale gas in England - in particular, with regard to the bullish attitude of the petrochemical company INEOS.

INEOS are now at the forefront of developing Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking) in the United Kingdom and mainland Europe, and intend to use the fracked hydrocarbons not just for fuel but for its own energy-intensive petrochemical and plastics productions. This contributes directly and significantly to the overall growing problem of plastic pollution.

We strongly condemn the recent legal threat against the National Trust by INEOS and we also want to declare our strong and firm support for the National Trust, which - by protecting Clumber Park from the fracking industry - is protecting priceless cultural and environmental heritage of the UK on behalf of the needs of current and future generations.

This extremely risky technique is deeply unpopular. Opinion polling in the UK has consistently shown very low support for fracking, with the most recent government poll showing twice as many people were opposed to fracking (32%) as supported it (16%), while over 99% of those responding to the Scottish government's consultation were opposed to fracking going ahead in Scotland.

The publication of your own Clean Growth Strategy does not explain how fracking can be accommodated within the government's statutory fourth and fifth carbon budgets, despite the Committee on Climate Change having instructed the Government to do so. Indeed, fracking is not even mentioned in the Clean Growth Strategy despite the government's clear intention to pursue it. The 'Gas Security of Supply' report, also contained no details on plans for hydraulic fracturing in energy security projections for the UK over the next 20 years and has confirmed that shale gas is not needed to ensure a security of supply for the UK.

Not only is there no "national need" for shale gas, even under your own government's policy, but countless peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown and acknowledged how harmful and damaging this extraction process can be. The fracking industry itself consumes space and water on a large scale. Through the construction of a network of thousands of wells, associated pipelines and compressor stations, it has a significant negative impact on the development of the targeted regions

and will be detrimental to areas where either settlements or agriculturally, environmentally and/or culturally sensitive zones can be found. Seismic surveys are just the first step of this kind of “development”. If the surveys showed there to be sufficient gas, Ineos could go back to court and try to force Landowners to allow it access to frack and extract it.

Climate change is one of the most urgent and complex threats to the British countryside today. Fracking poses significant risks to the natural environment through loss or fragmentation of habitat, disturbance of wildlife and potential pollution of watercourses that support sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity and as a driver of climate change.

Science shows that the majority of known fossil fuels must remain unburned in the ground if we want to avoid runaway climate change. Therefore, allowing fracking for fossil fuels at any significant scale risks breaching our domestic and international obligations on climate change. This is especially so as recent scientific advances, recognised by the International Panel on Climate Change, show that the impact of fugitive methane is very likely substantially higher than assumed in the government’s own modelling of greenhouse-gas emissions.

The UK is a leader in affordable, secure, low-carbon technologies and this growing industrial sector has significant potential for jobs, exports and prosperity. It is, therefore, in the overriding “national interest” of the UK to tackle climate change, on behalf of its citizens and all future generations.

The councils of Lancashire, Cheshire, Rotherham and Derbyshire have all reasonably rejected specific well applications for potential shale gas development. Following a two year consultation process, the Scottish Government decided to ban fracking. The case put forward by the fracking industry did not convince the Scottish Government and the recent legal challenge by INEOS to overturn this democratic decision of the Scottish Government is also of deep concern.

Landowners who are charitable bodies acting in the public interest should most certainly not be forced to accept shale development of any kind (including seismic surveys). Landowners of all types have to be able to retain the right to say no to companies wanting to access their land for exploration and exploitation of fossil fuels.

We stand with the National Trust and Landowners in the defence of their right to say NO to granting access to oil and gas companies wanting to survey their land. Landowners, communities and individuals should retain the right to protect and defend the assets they value.

We call on the UK government to review current policy, issue an immediate halt to unconventional oil and gas exploration in the UK and invest heavily in clean renewable energy, energy efficiency and move rapidly towards a low-carbon economy.

Yours sincerely

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Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Standing up for your countryside

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Academics

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Academics (cont)

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Dr Steve Connelly, Senior Lecturer Dept. of Urban Studies & Planning University of Sheffield

Dr Matthew Cotton, Lecturer Human Geography, Department of Environment, University of York

Prof. Richard Cowell, Professor of Environmental Planning, Cardiff University

Prof. Nick Cowern, Director, NC Tech Insight Ltd. and Emeritus professor, Newcastle University

Dr Paul Dorfman, The Energy Institute, University College London

Emeritus Professor Chris Garforth, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading.

Prof. Robert W. Howarth, Ph.D., Professor of Ecology and Environmental Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Dr Jeremy Leggett, social entrepreneur and writer on energy

Tony Marmont, Prof, Dsc, Dtech, Hon FEI, Hon.FCIBSE. Fuels From Air Ltd

Dr Simon Pickering, Principal Ecologist , Ecotricity

Jonathon Porritt (environmental campaigner and writer)

Prof. Susan Roaf, Emeritus professor of Architectural Engineering, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh

Dr Sandra Steingraber, PhD, biologist, author, Distinguished Scholar in Residence, Ithaca College, New York

Prof. Peter Strachan, Professor of Energy Policy, Robert Gordon University Aberdeen Business School: Aberdeen

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Community campaign groups

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Steve White
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Frack Free Lancashire



Karen Bannochie
Frack Free
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David Kesteven
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Penny Cole,
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Alan & Jane Finney
Mosborough Against
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Bev Fulwood
Bassetlaw Against
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Frack Free
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Susan Holliday
Preston New Road
Action Group



Helen Savage
No Fracking in
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Pam Foster
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John Hobson
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**Pauline Meechan and
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