Please reply to: Mrs Sydney Charles

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**Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change** 18th July 2015

CC Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP

CC Rt Hon Catherine West MP

CC Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP

**Support for Urgent and Effective action on Climate Change**

The Transition Highgate - Climate Action Network consists of concerned citizens dedicated to preventing our slide towards dangerous Climate Change and campaigning for effective action to minimise the damage.

Wars come and go, recessions, depressions come and go and EU referenda come and go, but Climate Change is an unprecedented threat requiring the relentless focus from all our best people that won us World War II.

We were therefore pleased to see the momentous pledges made by David Cameron on 14th Feb, signed by himself, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg, to ‘work together across party lines, to agree carbon budgets in accordance with the Climate Change Act’, as well as seeking a global climate deal and accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy.

But how will this collaboration pledge be honoured now that the election is over? Undoubtedly there are good people in all the Parties who are passionate and informed about Climate Change, but will they now be working together effectively on the UK’s response to Climate Change? And will they be able to transcend departmental boundaries to give sufficient priority to the threats we face?

The recent CCC report to Parliament “Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change” acknowledged the actions being taken by the Government but said that “Without significant new policies progress will fall behind what is required to meet legal obligations through the 2020s”. Indeed, in the context of delays to Nuclear capacity and changes in Government policies, the need for new policies that will minimise UK carbon emissions has to be our top priority.

Nuclear, aviation and fossil fuels all receive considerable State support whilst ‘green initiatives’ involve labyrinthian red tape, business uncertainty and responsibilities spread around various departments. Certain media are able to mislead the public on the issues because consistent information on the cost of fuel types across renewables and fossils are not easy to find (or are not available). Without an overarching framework and reliable information and until success is judged by global carbon reduction, our efforts won’t be used to best effect.

We have the opportunity in Paris to show UK leadership and vision. At a Global level the most important change is to move away from fossil fuel subsidies towards the ‘polluter pays’ position. At a UK level untapping the innovation and resolve of British people across Parties could achieve reductions in fuel poverty, improvements in air quality, UK quality jobs and certainty for both small and large businesses.

So, how will the new Government create the cross party framework and governance structure to win this war against Climate Change?

We await with interest your response and reassurance that this most serious threat the world faces will be accorded the highest priority and collaboration of all our best people.

S Charles

On behalf of the Transition Highgate - Climate Action Network.

<http://transitionhighgate.org/>