

TEMPLATE LETTER TO LOCAL MP

XXX MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Dear XXX,

Threat to green jobs in

I am most concerned to hear that the government has announced proposals to bring forward cuts in a key incentive for renewable energy – the feed-in tariff. **I am, therefore, writing to you as my constituency MP to urge to ask you to contact Chris Huhne, the Secretary of State of Energy and Climate Change, to call for changes in tariffs to be made from 1 April 2012 as previously stated and for a higher rate for community projects to be maintained.**

The south west has excellent renewable energy resources that can be at the heart of a prosperous low carbon economy in the future. Research by Regen SW shows that the feed-in tariff has led to over 14,500 solar PV installations in the south west, bringing the benefits of secure and sustainable decentralised energy to many homes, communities and businesses.

Furthermore, 2,000 jobs have been created in the solar PV sector in the south west during difficult economic times and over 380 companies have passed the necessary certification to install renewable energy.

The feed-in tariff was brought in with cross-party support in April 2010 - the cost is currently less than £1 pound on the average bill, whilst helping to make the country less dependent on imported fossil fuels whose price volatility is driving recent price increases.

As the price of solar PV falls, everyone agrees that tariff rates should be reduced. However, by cutting the rates by more than 50% with so little notice the government is pulling the rug from under that have invested in good faith on the basis of government policy.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,