

ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Charles Hendry MP
Minister of State for Energy
Department for Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
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REF. MJP

17 November 2011

Dear Charles

Thank you so much for attending the meeting on Monday 7 November to discuss onshore wind farms and thank you for your prompt letter of the 10 November. It was extremely helpful to be able to deliver it to my public meeting in South Northamptonshire. Around 80 representatives of the 92 Parish Councils in my constituency attended and I believe that everyone went away feeling more positive.

There were a few concerns that were raised and I would be grateful if you were able to let me have your thoughts on these matters:

- Whilst everyone was pleased to hear that the taxpayer funded subsidy for onshore wind farms would be cut by 10% from 2013, concerns were raised over the 50% cut in subsidy for solar photovoltaic technology. Many of my constituents said that this would be a form of renewable energy that individual households could support themselves, however the drastic cut in the subsidy means that it is no longer viable. There is a feeling that wind farm developers are being protected and home owners are being penalised;
- The meeting was also pleased to hear that the Localism Bill is coming into operation and I was delighted to learn that the Bill received Royal Assent this week. However, there is a fear regarding the 'grey area' between now and when the Localism Bill becomes fully operational. Many residents are concerned that if Neighbourhood Development Plans and Local Plans are not in place immediately, wind farm developers could push through proposals because of a lack of a plan. I would be grateful if you could consider this matter;
- Concerns were also raised regarding biomass incinerators and what is being done to regulate them.

Thank you again for all your help and support and I look forward to hearing from you regarding the points my constituents have raised at your earliest convenience.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea".

Andrea Leadsom MP

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire