

ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Robert Syms MP
Chairman
HS2 Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9th February 2016

Ref: AL/TG/1602

Dear Robert,

I understand that your Committee is now deliberating over its final report on HS2 and that this is due to be published on the 22nd February. I am sure that you are looking forward to the conclusion of the work of the Select Committee and I again take this opportunity to thank you for your sterling dedication in support of residents along the length of the proposed line of route, particularly in my own constituency of South Northamptonshire.

I am writing to support three proposals put forward by HS2 Action Alliance (HS2AA):

1. Consideration of a reduction in the maximum train speed from 360 km/h to 300 km/h which would be equivalent to the speed of a TGV.
2. Independent oversight of the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of HS2.
3. The guaranteed planting of two million trees along Phase One and ensuring that these trees are properly maintained throughout the operational lifetime of HS2.

Whilst I am broadly supportive of the points set out by Thomas Crane of HS2AA in his letter to you of the 4th February, I leave to the expertise of your Committee the specific details of how the above three proposals could be brought forwards.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'A Leadsom'.

Andrea Leadsom MP
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

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