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Rt Hon Rishi Sunak  
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**An Open Letter to Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**

Dear Prime Minister,

WRM is deeply troubled by the UK Government's decision to delay policy targets aimed at reaching net zero emissions by 2050. This short-sightedness will exacerbate climate challenges and incur far greater costs over time.

One major concern is the removal of policy drivers from the waste sector. Since 2010, progress on waste reduction and recycling has stagnated without strong policies in place to drive the municipal sector. Today's announcement will likely result in further stagnation and a disappointing reduction in momentum.

Furthermore, we were troubled by your unfounded assertions that net zero policies would somehow limit car passengers, impose excessive recycling bins, leave us reliant on Russian energy imports and create new taxes on meat or travel. When pressed on these matters, you were unable to cite specific legislative or taxation mechanisms, which clearly frame the announcements as inflammatory claims that mischaracterise reasonable climate proposals under consideration.

The Government claims this rollback balances socio-economic concerns. However, linking the cost-of-living crisis to climate action is misguided and incorrect. As the IPCC conclusively reports, the costs of climate inaction vastly outweigh the costs of urgent decarbonisation. Climate adaptation costs will be incrementally greater, possibly catastrophically so, the longer mitigation is delayed.

The only scenario where long-term economic and social benefits occur is by pressing ahead with ambitious decarbonisation policies. At WRM, our staff have experienced firsthand the

cost savings from technologies like heat pumps, solar panels and electric vehicles. The Government should be incentivising these solutions to ensure households and businesses can access travel and energy cost savings sooner rather than later.

We also believe these delays represent a tragic and missed opportunity for businesses across the UK. The green transition, if managed equitably, will bring enormous economic growth, job creation, and improved wellbeing. Climate action makes business sense and should be pursued urgently.

The UK must lead in the global decarbonisation effort as an historical super-emitter. Today's policy rollback severely undermines our climate credibility and moral authority on the world stage. Our country has produced some of the highest cumulative greenhouse gas emissions per capita. The real socioeconomic crisis is not addressing this fact by embracing the polluter pays principal.

Our communities, especially the youth, increasingly understand the climate emergency and demand ambitious action even if lifestyle changes are needed. It is time to leverage this groundswell.

The UK has the ingenuity, technology, and resources to rapidly reach net zero emissions across all sectors of society. But strong leadership and coordination from the Government is essential.

What we now need from you is far greater policy ambition, not less. WRM calls for a U-turn on the net-zero announcement so that the rapid decarbonisation of the UK can continue in a way that is pro-growth, pro-jobs, pro-health, and pro-justice.

Given this context, we question whether yesterday's announcement is merely political game playing, as the next general election looms. The pushback of vital climate policy drivers cannot be justified on economic, social or environmental grounds. We strongly urge the Government to reconsider this populist stance for the sake of long-term sustainability and intergenerational justice.

Let us move forward together, not backward. The future of our planet is at stake. The transition to net zero can and must benefit all of society. Doing our fair share globally means



rapidly cutting emissions across every sector. This moment calls for vision, courage and solidarity.

WRM stands ready to support our clients and the UK in this urgent work.

**Yours Sincerely,**

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