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Template letter/email to MPs

Subject line: Please support Zane's Law to make toxic landfill sites safe

Dear

I wonder if you are aware that, in 2014, seven-year-old Zane Gbangbola died and his father was paralysed with a diagnosis of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) poisoning, during catastrophic flooding in Surrey? Flood water passing through a nearby historic landfill site carried HCN into Zane's home, where it was detected at high levels by the Fire and Rescue Services on the night of the tragedy.

How could this have been allowed to happen? A recent EDM called for an independent panel inquiry into Zane's case:

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61838/independent-panel-inquiry-into-the-death-of-zane-gbangbola>

But this case has far wider implications. Many thousands of people live near to such potentially dangerous sites and are entirely unaware of the risks that they face. And current UK regulations regarding toxic waste disposal and the danger to human life and our environment, from both historic landfill sites and 'approved' landfill sites operating the 'dry tomb' principle, are dangerously inadequate. Especially so, in the face of climate breakdown, with rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and with widespread flooding now commonplace.

In view of this ticking time bomb, I urge you to please support 'Zane's Law', which was launched by Zane's parents and parliamentarians including Baroness Natalie Bennett at a special COP26 event.

Zane's Law seeks to address the crisis of contaminated land in the UK, reinstating legislative provisions removed by successive governments from the 1990 Environment Protection Act, and recognising the *Human Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment*, as affirmed by the UN General Assembly in July 2022.

Zane's Law proposes legislative measures to prioritise the protection and safety of people and planet, and the human right to a healthy environment. These would likely include obligations for:

1. Each relevant Local Authority to keep a full, regularly updated Register of Land that may be contaminated within their boundary.
2. The Environment Agency to keep a full, public National Register of Contaminated Land to be regularly updated by information from local authorities.
3. All these Registers of Land to be accessible and available for inspection by the general public.
4. Relevant local authorities to fully inspect any land registered that may be contaminated and to fully remediate or enforce remediation of any land which poses a danger to public safety, or which pollutes controlled waters*
5. Relevant local authorities to be responsible for inspecting *previously closed landfill* sites and fully remediating them, or enforcing their remediation when they pose a risk of significant harm to people or controlled waters.
6. The government to *take full responsibility* for providing the necessary funds for local authorities to meet these new requirements, following the '*polluter pays*' principle: to recover costs as appropriate where those responsible for the pollution can be identified.

* *Controlled waters are groundwater or surface water intended for human consumption.*

Lewes District Council recently passed a motion fully supporting Zane's Law, and other councils are likely to be bringing such motions. Will you support parliamentary efforts to advance Zane's Law too? Please let me know, and please would you sign the Zane's Law petition? The link is [here](#).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Name and address