Dear [name of your MP],

I am a voter in your constituency of [XXX] and am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the government's proposal to expand Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Leeds Bradford and other airports based on a 'growth first' agenda.

The airport expansion proposals contradict Rachel Reeve's pledge to become "Britain's first green chancellor" [1]. According to the government's own advisers, the UK risks missing its legally-binding net zero targets if it goes ahead with airport expansion [2]. The relentless push for economic growth in the context of secular stagnation (i.e. structurally low growth rates in high-income countries) [3] and the climate and ecological emergencies is misplaced. A progressive government should prioritise social and ecological objectives above all else.

You justify your decision by claiming that sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) would make aviation greener, but this argument is deeply flawed. Currently, less than 0.1% of aviation fuels consist of SAFs, and many experts agree SAFs cannot be scaled up in time [4]. SAFs are more energy intensive and costly than fossil fuels, and are associated with environmental harms such as deforestation, biodiversity loss and water shortages [5]. Potential emission reductions from SAFs are easily offset by the expansion of air travel, and SAFs contribute to global warming due to decadal lags in carbon re-sequestration [6]. Rich people fly far more than poor people [7]; scarce expenditure and resources should be allocated to other, more essential sectors that benefit wider society [8].

The New Economics Foundation argues it is unlikely that airport expansion would contribute much to growth in the UK as it will mainly boost holiday flights to other countries and expenditure abroad [9]). But even if it could boost growth, prioritising economic growth above all else is outdated economics. There is strong empirical evidence that economic growth cannot be decoupled from emissions and material use at the speed and scale required [10]. In addition, economic growth mainly benefits those who are already wealthy, increasing inequality [11].

The Labour government will not do itself a favour by trying to outcompete the Conservatives on the 'growth first' agenda. Instead, a progressive government should prioritise social and ecological outcomes by investing in essential services such as health and social care, renewable energy, public transport, and low carbon homes; focus on reducing inequalities through pre- and re-distribution; and better align environmental and social policies to reduce emissions, create jobs, and improve the satisfaction of people's fundamental needs.

Will you oppose the expansion of all UK airports, and promote a more progressive agenda that puts our social and ecological wellbeing first?

Thank you and kind regards,

[Name]

[postcode/address]

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[2] Climate Change Committee, 2023 Progress Report to Parliament https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2023-progress-report-to-parliament/

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[11] Piketty, T., & Rendall, S. (2022). *A Brief History of Equality*. Harvard University Press.