

Miatta Fahnbulleh MP
Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
By email

10th March 2026

Dear Minister,

I am writing with the support of the other MPs listed below to commend to you the following amendments to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill recently discussed at committee stage in the House of Lords. These amendments would further the Government's goal of restoring nature alongside delivering growth and prosperity for communities around the country:

Lords' amendment 192: Duty to contribute to delivery of nature, clean air and climate targets gives strategic authorities, mayors, and local authorities the statutory support they need to deliver local action that contributes to national climate and nature targets.

Lords' amendment 225 empowers communities with the right to buy assets for their environmental benefit, which is supported elsewhere in the Bill in the health improvement duty's recognition of the role of nature in improving health.

Nature plays a vital role in our economy, health, and social wellbeing.¹ The Bill's health improvement and health inequalities duty goes some way to addressing this by recognising access to green space as an important determinant of health outcomes, following successful amendment at Commons stages.

However, the Bill still does not do enough though to empower local government and communities to respond effectively to the threats and challenges of nature loss and climate change to people's homes, businesses, jobs, and security.

At an event I hosted together with local Wildlife Trusts in Parliament in January we heard how restoring nature can protect homes and businesses from flooding, safeguard water resources, improve the air people breathe and the health of the soils that produce the food we eat. Realising these benefits depends on delivering measures on the ground at a local level. Local government is in the best position to drive this delivery – except that it does not have the statutory backing it needs to do this because existing duties and powers relating to nature recovery and climate change are too weak. This is something the Government has the power to fix, and the Devolution Bill is our chance to do that.

There is widespread support for giving local government strengthened duties and powers to contribute to national nature and climate targets, including from the Local Government Association² and District Councils Network, and extending community right to buy to assets of environmental value would empower communities to look after important green spaces for themselves.

¹ Natural Capital [report](#)

² Local Government Association [briefing](#)

By supporting the above amendments, the Government can help communities and local government to realise the opportunities for local action to restore nature and mitigate climate change impacts to boost jobs, protect homes, improve health, and increase the resilience of businesses and the local economy.

Government amendments to take forward these nature-enhancing, community-empowering measures would be warmly welcomed. I hope you will support these two popular and much needed changes to improve the Bill for nature, growth, and communities.

I also invite you to meet with the local Wildlife Trusts who have been advocating so constructively for these amendments during the Bill's passage through Parliament, and who I know would be delighted to discuss and answer any questions you might have for them.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP

Letter also signed by:

Sir Desmond Swayne MP

Adrian Ramsay MP

Carla Denyer MP

Sian Berry MP

Ellie Chowns MP

Hannah Spencer MP

Cc: The Hon. Mary Creagh CBE MP, Minister for Nature