



Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2 Marsham Street
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Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
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X April 2026

Dear Secretaries of State,

Re: Inclusion of a Horticultural Peat Ban within the King's Speech

Peatlands are one of the UK's most important natural assets, vital for storing carbon, supporting nature, and protecting communities from extreme weather events. Yet this precious resource continues to be extracted and destroyed. Successive governments going back to 2010 have recognised this fact but have not legislated to ban horticultural peat.

This is a letter to show support across Parliament for legislation banning the sale of peat for horticultural use to be included in the upcoming King's speech.

Every year, UK horticulture extracts [760,000 m³ of peat](#), enough to fill over 300 Olympic-sized swimming pools. These ecosystems take up to ten millennia to form and can be destroyed in a season, releasing vast quantities of carbon in the process, with [880,000 tonnes of CO₂](#) released in 2020 alone.

Given that this government was elected on a mandate to achieve net zero by 2050, implementing this ban will help ensure that peatlands can play a key role in that mission.

Notwithstanding the climate benefits, healthy peatlands store and slow water flows, reducing flood and drought risk, while creating a rich mosaic of habitats that mitigate wildfire risk. [The Met Office](#) predicts more frequent and extreme weather events; healthy and thriving peat remains one of the government's most effective tools to mitigate these risks.

Although many horticultural businesses have adopted alternatives, with peat usage from the sector decreasing [by over 50%](#), progress is beginning to stall, with peat use in retail (bagged) compost only decreasing [by 1% from 2022 and 2023](#). A mandatory ban, as outlined in the

Environmental Improvement Plan, is needed to complete the transition to peat-free horticultural products.

More than 100 retailers, compost manufacturers, nursery owners and conservation charities have [written to the Prime Minister](#) calling for legislation to end peat sales. The ban is also extremely popular with the public, with [95% of respondents favouring a peat ban in the Government's 2022 consultation](#). Moreover, the [Peat-Free Partnership's petition](#) to ban the sale of peat has amassed 17,618 signatures, signalling strong support for the ban.

We welcome commitments made within the latest [Environmental Improvement Plan](#) to legislate for a ban on the sale of peat and peat-containing products. The upcoming King's Speech provides the perfect opportunity to deliver on this commitment, for nature, climate and people.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Dyke MP for Glastonbury and Somerton

Cat Eccles MP for Stourbridge

Baroness Lister of Burtersett CBE

Siân Berry MP for Brighton Pavilion

Dr Ellie Chowns MP for North Herefordshire

Carla Denyer MP for Bristol Central

Adrian Ramsay MP for Waveney Valley

Hannah Spencer MP for Gorton and Denton

Baroness Watkins of Tavistock

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

Lord Cameron of Dillington