

Steve Double MP

St Austell and Newquay



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Bella,
Pondhu Primary School
Penwinnick Road
St Austell
Cornwall
PL25 5DS

SDD/ SD15620

30th April 2021

Dear Bella,

Thank you for sending such a thoughtful letter about restoring our oceans. I really enjoy getting letters from young people and it was really interesting to read what you wrote.

As the Member of Parliament (MP) for this part of Cornwall, protecting the oceans has been one of the big things I wanted to do since I started my job. There has never been a time where it has been so important to look after our marine habitats.

You raise very important points about biodiversity loss. We must manage the marine environment sustainably to support fish stocks and healthy seas. This includes reducing how much plastic waste is generated by society and how much litter is released into the ocean.

I am also just as concerned as you are about climate change, which is, sadly, putting certain species at risk of extinction.

This is why the UK must continue to lead on these issues. I have worked with the Government to:

- Establish a 'Blue Belt' covering over 38% of our waters. We are leading calls for at least 30% of the global ocean to be protected by 2030.
- Embrace a target for the UK to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Put sustainability and environmental protection at the heart of our fisheries policy.

Since I first became MP in 2015, I have led a group in Parliament called Ocean Conservation. In this group, we work with people from all over the country, including

Surfers Against Sewage. We work to reduce plastic rubbish and make our seas and beaches cleaner and tidier.

Some of the work done for the whole country, both by myself and with the Ocean Conservation Group include:

- Pushing to make the Government introduce a deposit scheme for single-use plastic bottles so people can get a reward for returning used plastic bottles.
- Worked to introduce the Plastic Free Parliament campaign – asking other MPs and the people who work in the Houses of Parliament to stop using single use plastic items at work.
- Supported the Final Straw Cornwall campaign, which led to the banning of plastic straws across the UK

Locally I have also:

- Worked with councillors to promote waste and recycling to encourage people in Mid-Cornwall to recycle more things.
- Joined the Refill Cornwall scheme so that people can come into my office in St Austell and refill bottles with tap water and encourage them not to buy single use plastic bottles.
- Held regular beach cleans to go out and tidy things up myself.

I hope this has been helpful in telling you about just some of the work I have been doing to help protect our oceans.

Thank you again for writing to me to place a spotlight on this vital issue. I will keep your thoughts in mind as I work with the Government to restore our ocean to its natural state.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve', with a stylized, flowing script.

Steve