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Sent: 19 March 2007 12:02
To: chairman@rcep.org.uk
Subject: REPORT ON THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

19 March 2007

Sir John Lawton
Chairman
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution
Third Floor, 5-8 The Sanctuary
Westminster
London SW1P 3JS

Dear Sir John,

I enjoyed the meeting for the launch of the RCEP's Report on The Urban Environment.

You may remember I had a brief word with you following the first meeting in relation to plans for unrestricted number of flights on the existing runway for Stansted Airport. A Health Impact Assessment was carried out by a firm (ERM) appointed by British Airports Authority and this seemed to raise a few eyebrows when I stated this at the meeting and there were a few unfavourable comments about this during the interval.

When I asked you for your views as to whether climate change should be excluded from the HIA, you said that this was "bonkers". You also stated that the Government's view, and indeed that of our Local Authority, that issues affecting climate change are to be considered centrally as part of carbon emissions trading was obfuscation.

I also asked you whether I could quote you on this, and the answer was in the affirmative. During the summer there will be a Public Inquiry, since the Local Authority (Uttlesford District Council) rejected the Government's plans for unrestricted use of the existing runway. I hope it is still acceptable to quote you, since I am sure this will be of importance in the Public Inquiry. Incidentally, the same firm (ERM) have been appointed by BAA to do the HIA for plans for the second runway which, if passed, would make passenger throughput at Stansted Airport comparable with Heathrow.

Kind regards.
Yours sincerely,

Professor J.E. Banatvala

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