

Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

September 2012

Dear Mr Paterson

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State.

The Society for the Environment is the leading Chartered professional body covering all aspects of the environment, environmental management and environmental protection. It is an umbrella body. Its member organisations cover a range of professions including energy and resources, engineering, ecology, environmental management, agriculture, environmental sciences, construction, water, fisheries and forestry. We include many of the major institutions in these fields. Our unique product is a professional qualification, Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) which provides a common, postgraduate level, standard for all professions. We are comparable to the Engineering Council and the Science Council, and Chartered Environmentalist is equal in status to Chartered Engineer and Chartered Scientist.

We are one of the few bodies that can act as a liaison point between Government and professionals working in the entire environmental area. We welcome the opportunity to work with you as you coordinate action across Government departments and policy areas and to support your work through our knowledge base, our member institutions and our ability to bring environmental interests together.

Our professions and industries represent a huge growth opportunity for the UK in environmental goods and services. The market for these services is growing at over 5% per year, and the potential gains for British business stemming from more efficient resource use (including water, energy and materials) are enormous: some £23bn a year. The export opportunities from a low carbon economy are even greater. This market is already worth £3 trillion a year, rising to £4 trillion by 2015. Better environmental performance in UK industry will sharpen its competitive edge, as well as helping to deliver the outcomes we want in environmental protection and management.

The Society for the Environment has a key role in developing and spreading information, skills, best practice and influence. Our member bodies' wide range of expertise makes us a vital part of the response to climate change, resource efficiency and the protection of natural systems using a growing army of professionals: there are currently almost 7,000 Chartered Environmentalists, and we are working to increase this number.

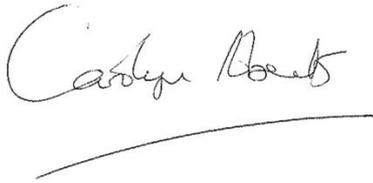
As an introduction to the Society for the Environment we would be delighted to welcome you as a key speaker or special guest at a future event – in particular our Christmas Council meeting and early evening Reception on 4 December at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London, where we would welcome the opportunity to hear your views on future opportunities and responsibilities in the environment. If you are available for this date we will be happy to confirm the arrangements with your office.

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Please again accept our congratulations on your new appointment. We stand ready to offer our information and experience as a resource to you in your work as Secretary of State, and would be happy to be included in future consultations.

Yours sincerely,



CAROLYN ROBERTS
Chair



ALEX GALLOWAY
Chief Executive

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