**Dear\_\_\_\_\_**

**I am writing to you as one of your constituents, to ask you to stand up for a wildlife issue that is very important to me. Last year a petition calling for an immediate ban on shooting Badgers in England gathered over 106,000 signatures. This petition has been created at a time of great turmoil worldwide. Although I feel this was a very poorly timed petition I would hope that the importance of allowing the cull to continue will not be ignored.**

**The petition is being debated in Westminster Hall, on Monday March 14th at 16:30. As your constituent, I am asking you to attend this debate, and support the on-going cull.**

**The badger cull in the original cull zones in Gloucestershire and Somerset showed a 66% reduction in new TB breakdowns in cattle in Gloucestershire and a 37% reduction in Somerset, this is concrete evidence of the cull working.**

**The NFU and Natural England (NE) consider that COVID-19 restrictions have disrupted processes required for badger disease control licence applications. The government should use the evidence and studies provided to reach its goals considering the evident struggles within the farming and pest control community.**

**New figures published by Defra show that it cost just over £4 million to police the badger culls across all participating forces in 2020. Due to fringe groups brainwashing the public, people are putting their lives in danger, disturbing the badgers and costing taxpayers money. Catering to their relentless vilification of the cull empowers their unruly and sometimes illegal activities.**

**Defra plans to expand surveillance, testing cattle for bTB every six months throughout the High-Risk Area, beginning from 1st January 2022. Trials of the bTB cattle vaccine also began in June, with plans to deploy it by 2025 if it proves successful. To end the cull prematurely would cause all efforts and the tangible progress thus far achieved to be wasted. The plans set out have yet to be achieved and without this key step in halting BTB England will never reach its TB free status by 2038.**

**The cull has also been beneficial to ground nesting birds and hedgehogs whose numbers have been under threat.**

**If you are unable to appear in person I ask that you share my views with your backbench colleagues who may be able to attend as I feel this is an important step towards a healthy and lucrative farming future in England.**

**Signed**

**Your name**

**Your address**

**Your phone number**