

# Petition on “Net Zero” Climate Change Policy.

At the last election all three parties committed to Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050 with the Lib Dems setting out to get there more quickly but no party gave any details, except for the odd line in their manifestos. Whoever you voted for, Net Zero was a given. In our May CIB newsletter we suggested “Maybe it is time for Parliament to be subject to regular checks by referendum on major issues which touch on sovereignty – at times decided by the people not the government” and that we should discuss this with like-minded organisations. Such a massively expensive long-term policy decision as this, under binding international treaty, should be subject to real democratic accountability.

THE HARROGATE AGENDA (Director Niall Warry) has launched a petition demanding a referendum on this massively important issue. Here is his message and we commend it to our members and readers.

“In his budget speech Rishi Sunak increased total spending and taxes, neither being good for economic recovery, but made no mention of the potential £3 trillion bill for meeting the Net Zero target by 2050. Also yesterday’s Telegraph showed that 42% of adults in a poll supported a vote on Net Zero.

For me Net Zero and the whole Climate Change debate is at the heart of our democracy as reflected in The Harrogate Agenda’s fourth demand ‘The People’s Consent’. This demand sets out the principles by which the people, via referendums, can hold the government to account between elections.

This is why I have launched this petition yesterday calling for a referendum on whether to keep the 2050 ‘Net Zero’ target. The petition states:-

"I believe the Net Zero lacks legitimacy and without a referendum the current Climate change policy lacks the explicit consent of the people, as argued by THA. This exposes a massive democratic deficit in our system of government."

The petition will be up for six months, until April next year. At 10,000 signatures we are guaranteed a response from the government and with 100,000 it would be considered for a debate in parliament. At the moment this is the only tool available to us, and while not ideal, we must not waste this opportunity.

So, whether you support Net Zero or not all real democrats should support this petition and sign it and pass it on to your friends and contacts.

This is democracy in action so please use the opportunity provided by this petition."

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/599602>