Dear [MP in your area] (or remove the first paragraph to go to a Lord), (look up how your MP voted)

As a member of your constituency, I would like to express my deep misgivings about your 13 May vote against the amendments to the Agriculture Bill (specifically New Clause 2, and Amendments 18/19).

The Agriculture Bill has passed through the House of Commons without the vital amendments that a coalition of 60 NGOs and farm groups such as the NFU and CLA saw as essential to rectify significant deficiencies in the Bill. These include its failure to feature food and farming in any meaningful way, its lack of commitment to agro-ecological practices and food security, and the lack of a reliable legislative safeguard for UK farmers against trade deals that would allow food imports produced in lower standards of food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection than are required of UK farmers.

It is shocking that almost all conservatives MP’s voted down the amendments as it puts the UK on a worrying course towards free trade agreements that can only result in a race to the bottom for our farm standards. The opportunity to support the adoption of sustainable farming practices across the whole farm, not just around the edges, is also in danger of being missed entirely with a piece of legislation which currently fails to integrate food production and environmental protection. Please support these excellent amendments added to the Bill by Lord Dundee.

I hope that you might enjoy listening to this podcast from the Sustainable Food Trust with Minette Batters, President of the NFU where she discusses issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, why such amendments are crucial if the UK government is to prioritise a secure and sustainable food supply and whether of not food should be considered a public good. As Minette, says, "not to learn the lessons from Covid-19 would be a failure".

It would be a mistake to prioritise global trade deals rather than support UK farmers who supply us with sustainable, nutritious high welfare food, not least in times of shock like this pandemic. I ask you to vote for the amendments to ensure Liz Truss and other trade negotiators, today and in the future, are prevented from offering concessions to the US in terms of our food standards.

Signed,

[NAME]