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Inspector K. D. Barton  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Room: 4/02, Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

Date:

Dear Inspector Barton

**Lydd Airport Public Inquiry - Reference: APP/L2250/V/10/2131934**

I urge you to reject Lydd Airport's proposed large scale development.

Lydd Airport's expansion will lead to the destruction of Romney Marsh's unique habitats in exchange for the creation of a small number of mainly low skilled seasonal jobs. The expanded airport will pose a threat to public safety due to its proximity to the Dungeness nuclear power station complex and the introduction of heavier aircraft such as the Boeing 737 for the first time.

The adverse impact the airport's development will have on the environment and on existing leisure employment on Romney Marsh will outweigh the benefits of the employment it will create. Lydd Airport's development is not the panacea for the loss of Dungeness C in the current new build round. Manston Airport's poor performance over the last 10 years demonstrates clearly that there is no demand for a second regional airport in Kent. Manston Airport is less than 50 miles away from Lydd Airport - it already has a longer runway than the proposed extended runway at Lydd, better infrastructure, and is operationally more efficient since the airport does not have restricted airspace in its immediate vicinity. Yet like Lydd, Manston Airport is heavily loss making, employs less than a 100 people and carried less than 6000 passengers in 2009. Both Lydd and Manson airports are operating at less than 1% of their potential passenger capacities based on their existing runways, indicating that there is no case for a second regional airport in Kent

Romney Marsh's unique habitats should be protected for future generations. Some of the habitats found on Dungeness are unique in Britain and possibly Europe, and amongst the diverse range of invertebrates on Dungeness are some species which are found no where else in the world. Any loss of crucial habitat needed for their lifecycles could lead to their extinction. Under European law (Habitats Regulations) Lydd Airport must prove that its development will not adversely affect the European protected sites that surround its runway and borders. The airport has failed to do this which means the development should not proceed.

Yours sincerely

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