



**Friends of the Earth**

**GREENPEACE**



Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ

29 July 2009

Dear Chancellor,

**RE: Air Passenger Duty**

Following the letter published by many of our organisations in the Daily Telegraph on 25 July - 'Flight taxes needed' - we are writing to urge you to stand firm and implement the planned changes to Air Passenger Duty (APD).

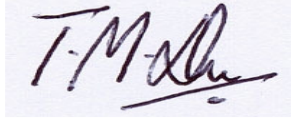
We continue to support your original plans for a per-plane duty, as this would link the tax more closely to the actual greenhouse gas emissions. Nonetheless, we made it clear at the time of the Budget that your eventual decision to increase the number of APD bands, and to increase the tax take more steeply on the longest flights, represented a significant improvement in environmental terms on the old APD structure.

Since then, there have been some objections from companies such as Ryanair calling for these changes to be reversed. Since the increase is only £1 per year on a short-haul economy flight, claims that the changes 'lobber hard-working families' simply do not stack up, and we are prepared to say so in public whenever the opportunity arises.

We understand the public pressures you are under on this emotive issue, but if the UK is to have a chance of meeting its legally-binding climate change targets, then emissions from aviation will have to be managed, and taxation is a vital tool to help achieve this. Misleading statements from the aviation industry must not force you to delay moving to a tax system that more fairly reflects the damage aviation does to the environment.

Again, we urge you to implement the planned changes, and please be assured that we will continue to back your decision in the media wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,



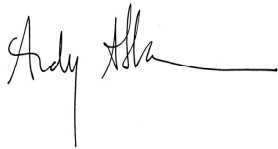
Tim Johnson, Director  
Aviation Environment Federation



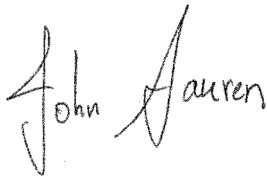
Stephen Joseph, Executive Director  
Campaign for Better Transport



Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive  
Campaign to Protect Rural England



Andy Atkins, Executive Director  
Friends of the Earth



John Sauven, Executive Director  
Greenpeace



Mark Avery, Conservation Director  
RSPB



David Nussbaum, Chief Executive  
WWF-UK