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To:-

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
10 Downing St.,
London SW1

March 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing on behalf of the United Stockport Circuit, which includes 12 Methodist churches worshipping within Stockport Metropolitan Borough, in Greater Manchester. This letter was approved at the United Stockport Circuit's Circuit Meeting held on 22nd March 2022

The Methodist Church very strongly supports the full implementation of the Climate Change Act and the achievement of the United Kingdom's targets of carbon emission reductions. To that end we support the decarbonisation of road transport, and the Government's intention to secure a rapid increase in the proportion of battery-powered electric cars in the next decade.

However we believe it will be important that the rapidly expanding battery industry does not inadvertently create negative impacts on either human rights or the environment in those locations where rare earths and metals, such as cobalt and lithium, are mined, or where batteries are fabricated.

There is growing evidence that best practice is far from worldwide, with human exploitation and destruction of natural habitats reported from several countries.

We are therefore asking for up to date information on the measures Her Majesty's Government is taking to ensure that manufacturers of batteries in the UK, and importers of batteries from elsewhere, are diligent in safeguarding the whole of their supply chain, from the working and environmental conditions at mineral extraction sites, right through the various steps of production to the point of sale and ultimate reuse or disposal.

We are hoping both to hear that the Government is alert to the emerging risks, and to receive a briefing from you on the steps being taken to mitigate them, so that our church members may feel assured that by buying an electric car and supporting the national decarbonisation strategy they are not inadvertently contributing to serious avoidable harms elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Rev'd Cathy Bird

Superintendent Minister, United Stockport Circuit

Cc to Stockport Borough's MPs:

Hon Navendu Mishra

Hon William Wragg

Hon Andrew Gwynne

Hon Mary Robinson