

## **Andrew Rosindell M.P.**

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## **The Rt Hon. Mark Harper M.P.** Secretary of State for Transport Great Minster House 39 Victoria Street LONDON SW1P 3BT

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## Dear Mark

I am writing to you once again, on behalf of my constituents, regarding the Mayor of London's plan to implement the expansion of his U.L.E.Z. scheme, in a few days' time, 29th of August, throughout 'Greater London', which includes the London Borough of Havering.

Huge numbers of local people in Romford and Hornchurch will be adversely impacted by this scheme, such as not being able to visit their family, access medical appointments, or visit local shops due to the financial burden of this proposal. Some have even approached me to state that they may have to close their businesses due to unforeseen transport costs and pre-empted reduction of footfall.

This policy will be catastrophic for the people of Romford and Havering and will also impact the lives of people from towns and villages bordering Havering, that are not under 'Greater London', but will still have to pay this tax if they drive over the border.

I am aware that under the Greater London Authority Act 1999, Section 143, as Secretary of State for Transport, you have the power to block this scheme, if you feel it will be 'detrimental' to 'any area outside Greater London'. It is clear that it will be, so please will you use your power?

As I have stated previously, the majority of my constituents see themselves as residents of Essex and not London. Yet they will find themselves isolated from their friends and family who reside in neighbouring Essex towns and villages that are not under 'Greater London'. They will be forced to pay a price for a scheme that they did not vote for, and which is not necessary.

Havering has good air quality and its emission levels do not compare to boroughs within the inner-London area.

I am particularly concerned that businesses across the wider-Essex region will be hit hard financially, as their customers come from inside the U.L.E.Z. area and this will cause additional transportation costs, leading to a loss of customers and trade.



It is completely unjust for these people to be so badly impacted by a tax that they have absolutely no control over.

It seems to me that the only way to tackle this now, with the extension of the scheme now imminent, is for this Conservative Government to intervene, using the powers vested within the Greater London Authority Act 1999 which permits you to 'direct the Mayor' to 'remove' this detrimental policy.

There is overwhelming opposition to U.L.E.Z. in my constituency and local people want to see the government they voted for to stop the implementation of this policy, particularly considering our current financial climate.

This is our last chance to prevent this cruel and unnecessary policy being imposed on the people of Havering and I urge you in the strongest terms, to use your powers to stop, or at the very least, delay the implementation of this policy until after the Mayoral elections which take place in May 2024.

I appeal to you to give this matter your most urgent attention.

Yours ever,

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