**Template**

**Letter to the Secretary of State**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, Postcode]

[Date]

Rt Hon Ed Miliband,

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero,

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero,

1 Victoria Street,

London.

SW1H 0ET

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Solar Farm near Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposal by Low Carbon to develop one of the UK’s largest solar farms, spanning the equivalent of 840 football pitches, on grade 1 & 2 agricultural land near Dungeness. While I fully support the transition to renewable energy, I believe the scale and location of this project pose significant risks to the environment, local communities, and future land use.

**Key Concerns**

**1. Environmental Impact**

The Dungeness area is internationally recognised for its unique and fragile ecosystem. It is home to rare species and protected habitats, which could be irreversibly damaged by a development of this scale. Solar farms require extensive groundwork and long-term use of land, which will conflict with the conservation goals of the area.

**2. Flood Risk**

Located in a flood-prone area, this development could exacerbate existing risks and pose long-term challenges to managing climate-related hazards. This raises questions about the suitability of this site for such infrastructure.

**3. Loss of Best, Most Versatile and Valuable Land**

The proposed site includes significant tracts of grade 1 & 2 agricultural land, which should be preserved for food production to ensure the nation’s food security, particularly given current and future global challenges.

**4. Impact on Local Character and Heritage**

The sheer size of the project would alter the landscape and affect the local character of Romney Marsh, which has historical and cultural significance. Additionally, a new substation could bring further disruption to the rural identity of the area.

**Alternative Solutions**

I urge you to explore alternative sites and solutions for renewable energy projects before allowing the scoping of BMV land, such as brownfield sites or existing industrial areas where the environmental and community impact would be significantly reduced. Rooftop solar installations and smaller-scale distributed energy projects could also achieve renewable energy targets without such profound disruption.

I respectfully request that you consider these objections seriously in light of the three dimensions of sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework: economic, social and environmental. Please ensure that this proposal undergoes the highest level of scrutiny before and during the Development Consent Order process, including extensive economic impact assessments for the community and wider Romney Marsh and at county level, and comprehensive Landscape Visual Identity Assessment and Residential Visual Amenity Assessments in addition to the required Environmental Assessments. I also respectfully request your urgent consideration of the cumulative impact of this proposal along with the several other large scale NSIP solar projects on Romney Marsh that are listed as being in ‘scoping’ phase on the NESO TEC register.

Protecting our natural heritage, food security and local economies is as critical as meeting our renewable energy goals, and these objectives must be balanced carefully.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Email Address]

[Optional: Your Role/Connection to the Area, e.g., local resident, business owner, etc.]