

Barry Gardiner for the Environment Audit Select Committee



Dear Colleague,

I am writing to ask for your support as I am seeking election to the chair of the Environmental Audit Select Committee.

Please judge my candidacy upon my record of action on environmental matters, both as Minister for Biodiversity and Gordon Brown's Special Envoy on Forestry and also in my current work as Chair of the GLOBE Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems where I work closely with UNEP and the Global Environment Facility.

I helped to establish the Congo Basin Forest Fund to preserve this vital tropical rainforest ecosystem, but also addressed the demand side drivers of deforestation by introducing tough new procurement rules to ensure that all timber used by the UK government should be both "legal and sustainable". On the back benches I introduced Private Members legislation into the House of Commons to make it a criminal offence to import or sell any timber harvested or produced illegally in its country of origin. This stringent measure has now been adopted up by the incoming government.

When I was Energy Minister in Northern Ireland, I negotiated the All Ireland Energy Grid to bring major savings to both North and South and pioneered a £12 million program of loans through the Carbon Trust to help businesses cut back on their energy consumption and waste. This month I chair the GLOBE international conference for a Global Marine Recovery Strategy and as Minister in DEFRA, I took the decision to create a Coastal Access Zone as part of the landmark Marine and Coastal Access Act. I also pressed for the creation of the largest single Marine Protected Area on the planet in the British Indian Ocean Territories.

Government decision making relies upon sound cost benefit analysis. Too often the value of natural capital and of ecosystem services are not included in that analysis with perverse results. As Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee I would seek to ensure that the full costs and benefits to the environment are properly accounted for in all that government does.

[I enclose a copy of a booklet](#) which I sent to my constituents last year outlining some of my environmental work. If you would like to discuss any points with me further, please do contact me. My extension is XXXX.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Gardiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry Gardiner

Member of Parliament for Brent North