Template letter

Dear Member of the Welsh Senedd

I am writing to you as one of your constituents to highlight the importance of ensuring the future Sustainable Farming Scheme includes some form of payment cap and is designed so as to focus support on family farms.

The current Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) introduces payment reductions for higher farm payments and an ultimate limit on the amount a farmer can claim (‘redistributive payments’).

The BPS system also reduces payments for farms with larger areas and increases the amount of money smaller and medium sized farms receive.

Other countries within the UK have no such systems, meaning there is no limit to the amount of money that can be claimed by large landowners, and no specific focus on providing funding for the family farms that make the greatest contributions to our communities.

Meanwhile, the EU is reforming policies in order to encourage payment capping and introduce redistributive payments to better address the income needs of smaller and medium-sized farms

The Welsh Government has refused to commit to maintaining any form of payment cap or redistributive payment, meaning a future scheme may well lead to money being taken away from hard working family farms and given to large landowners and charities - or even people based outside Wales.

I believe this would be a backwards step for Welsh society and am therefore writing to ask that you urge the Welsh Government and fellow Members of the Senedd to ensure a future payment scheme includes both capping and redistributive payment systems alongside rigorous active farmer criteria in order to protect and enhance the small and medium sized family farms that make up the vast majority of Welsh farm businesses.

Yours sincerely

[Please insert name and address]