

National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear

**The M4 Black Route is a decision Wales will regret for generations – help change it to a decision we can be proud of.**

I live in \_\_\_\_\_ and I am writing to ask you to oppose the M4 Black Route, which threatens to waste almost £2 billion of public money. I am very concerned that this road will make congestion worse, will work against Wales and the UK achieving their emissions targets, and will destroy a 10km length of the wildlife-rich (and protected) Gwent Levels – Wales' finest wetland landscape.

Communities in Wales like my own will suffer if this project goes ahead and wastes our opportunity to invest in Wales' future. You represent our community's voice in the Assembly. **Please raise my concerns with the First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport, and challenge them to justify the cost of this project at such an expense to the environment and our ability to invest across Wales.**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires that the Welsh Government and public bodies improve not only the economic but also the environmental, social and cultural well-being of future generations. I believe the Black Route does not achieve this balance or give full consideration to its future impacts, and is therefore not in line with Welsh Government's own legislation. We should make a decision to be proud of, not one that we will look back on with regret.

There is no certainty that the road will stimulate the economic growth as is promised – it could even direct investment towards Bristol. What's more, building this road will cause devastating damage to an irreplaceable habitat that is not only home to some of our rarest wildlife in Wales, including cranes and shrill carder bees, but is also an important green space for the wellbeing of local communities. In terms of climate change, it is well known that new roads induce new traffic, and history shows very clearly that proponents of road schemes consistently under-estimate the level of induced traffic. The reality is that new roads soon fill up, and air pollution increases. If we are to meet our Government's ambitious emissions targets, we cannot continue to prioritise road-building. On the basis of these concerns, I do not believe the M4 Black Route presents good value for money for the people of Wales, and I fear it will limit our ability to invest in building a sustainable future.

Despite my dismay at the Welsh Government's proposal, I am hopeful, because there are alternatives. Measures to encourage active travel would improve health and reduce congestion. Plus a reliable, affordable and efficient public transport network would help everyone – not just those who are able to drive.

I am very grateful for your time and for your support as my Assembly Member. Please let me know if you will oppose the M4 Black Route and if you will raise my questions with the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,