

8 July 2008

Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
LONDON SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor

In your 2007 Pre-Budget Report, you announced your intention to make a transition from air passenger duty to a duty payable per plane with effect from 1 November 2009. We warmly welcomed that announcement at the time and are therefore very concerned to note that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, addressing a recent conference, gave an indication that the Government was having second thoughts on this issue, saying: "There are strong arguments that we should not proceed with the transition."

We hope you will not be swayed by siren voices from certain quarters of the aviation industry and elsewhere who have a vested interest in opposing this reform and you will have noted that the industry has divided itself on this issue on predictable vested interest grounds. Our interest however – and presumably the interest of the Government – is to minimise the overall environmental impact of aviation and we, the undersigned, are united in urging you to proceed with the replacement of air passenger duty with a duty per plane – encompassing both freight operations and transfer passengers – with effect from November 2009, as previously announced.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Joseph, Executive Director, Campaign for Better Transport

and on behalf of

Tony Jupiter, Executive Director, Friends of the Earth
John Sauven, Chief Executive, Greenpeace
David Nussbaum, Director, WWF
Benedict Southworth, Director, World Development Movement
Tim Johnson, Director, Aviation Environment Federation
John Stewart, Chair, HACAN ClearSkies
Brendon Sewill, Chairman, Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign
Peter Sanders, Chairman, Stop Stansted Expansion