

Labour MPs set to defy whips in “world-leading” climate bill vote

- MPs will be handed a vote on a “world-leading” backbench climate bill on Friday, with dozens of Labour backbenchers vying to defy whips to support it
- The proposals set out to radically boost Britain’s green commitments, while campaigners say tackling the global “toxic cocktail of dither and delay” on climate change is vital
- The landmark Climate and Nature Bill, [published this morning \[Wednesday\]](#), sets out bold measures to boost the fight against climate change, while protecting nature

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LABOUR MPs are set to join forces with opposition parties to force through a landmark climate bill in Commons vote on Friday.

The backbench Climate and Nature Bill, which is supported by 195 MPs, including 90 Labour MPs, was [published today \[Wednesday\]](#) and faces a Parliamentary vote this week.

The “world-leading” proposals set out measures to strengthen Britain’s emission reduction targets, protect nature, and ensure the public have their say on the Government’s net zero and nature restoration plans.

Private members’ bills require at least 100 MPs to be present for a vote to be called, yet Labour MPs say ministers have been encouraging backbench MPs to talk out the bill with long speeches.

Labour backbenchers are being instructed to be in Westminster on Friday, though it is not yet clear if they will be ordered to vote against or abstain on the Bill.

Earlier this week, Government figures ordered four ministers to renege their support for the Bill and cut ties with [Zero Hour](#) environmental campaigners ahead of Friday’s vote.

They include Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Darren Jones, and Energy Minister, Miatta Fahnbulleh. Campaigners say it is vital that the Government actively comes out in support of the Bill, citing a “toxic cocktail of dither and delay” over the global fight against climate change.

While in opposition, the Labour Party claimed to support the “ambition and objectives” of the Bill, but MPs say instructions from Government whips to not support the Bill puts it in jeopardy.

Sponsored by Liberal Democrat MP, Dr Roz Savage, the private member’s bill has garnered record levels of support across the Commons, with dozens of Labour MPs set to vote in favour of it on Friday.

Devastating wildfires in Los Angeles this month, combined with Donald Trump’s immediate withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, are thought to be focusing MP’s minds to back the Bill in recent days.

Co-director of environmental campaign group Zero Hour, Dr Amy McDonnell, said:



“We face a crisis of inaction on the climate and ecological emergency, with a toxic cocktail of dither and delay across the globe.

“The Climate and Nature Bill presents a golden opportunity to say ‘no’ to the climate deniers and conspiracy theorists. Labour surely doesn’t want to align itself with those set to be on the wrong side of history.

“With hundreds of MPs supporting the Bill, Parliament is clearly ready to act. We now need the Government to back the CAN Bill so we can take the decisive action we need in the crucial years to 2030.”

For more information visit: <https://www.zerohour.uk/climate-and-nature-bill/>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Zero Hour

- [Zero Hour](#) is the environmental campaign behind the Climate and Nature Bill. It aims to boost the UK's climate change commitments and protect nature

About the Climate and Nature Bill

- The [Climate and Nature Bill](#) is guaranteed a five-hour Parliamentary debate during its second reading on 24 January 2025. The Bill is sponsored by Liberal Democrat MP, Dr Roz Savage.
- The Bill is backed by some 250 Parliamentarians, including 90 Labour MPs, more than 1,100 businesses, NGOs, Unions and Charities and 1,000 climate and health experts
- High-profile supporters include Co-Operative Bank, The Body Shop, Oxfam, Save British Farming, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Ecotricity, The Wildlife Trusts and Triodos Bank