

MPs join ex-Olympians in Thames boat race ahead of landmark climate vote

- A flotilla led by MPs and ex-Olympians raced past Parliament this morning [Tuesday], calling on ministers to back the Climate and Nature Bill
- The landmark private members' bill will be debated next week [24 January] and could become law after receiving the backing of more than 200 MPs
- Dozens of campaigners braved blustery conditions on the Thames earlier today to highlight the need for stronger action to safeguard the climate and protect nature

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

****IMAGES TO BE UPLOADED BEFORE 09:00 ON TUESDAY 14 JANUARY [HERE](#)****

WESTMINSTER was caught by surprise this morning [Tuesday] as a flotilla led by MPs and ex-Olympians raced past Parliament ahead of next week's vote on the Climate and Nature Bill.

More than 200 MPs – 88 of them Labour – have already thrown their weight behind the bill which sets out to boost Britain's emission reduction targets and increase protections for nature.

Bill sponsor Lib Dem MP Roz Savage and ex-Olympian Etienne Stott MBE joined dozens of climate campaigners who braved blustery conditions as they rowed through Westminster this morning.

Bemused tourists and commuters looked on as the flotilla raced under Westminster Bridge and past Parliament, calling on the Government to support the bill ahead of next Friday's vote.

The flotilla was cheered on by MPs watching from the House of Commons terrace.

The three eight-man rowing boats, accompanied by various support boats, began their voyage on the Victoria Embankment next to Waterloo Bridge and raced to Cadogan Pier in Chelsea.

Climate and Nature Bill co-sponsor Roz Savage was the first woman to row solo across three oceans: the Atlantic; Pacific; and Indian; and spearheaded this morning's Thames flotilla.

The backbencher says the Bill will make the UK a *"world leader in tackling the climate and nature crisis"*, citing President Trump's return to the White House as a major threat to global progress.

Support for the cross-party proposals has rapidly grown in recent days, with devastating wildfires in the United States thought to be focusing MPs' minds.

[Zero Hour](#) environmental campaigners who are championing the Bill say MPs should be afforded a free vote, in line with Kim Leadbeater's Assisted Dying Bill which was passed in November.

However, the Government is yet to publicly set out its position ahead of next week's vote, despite supporting the Bill's 'ambition and objectives' while in opposition.

Climate and Nature Bill sponsor, Roz Savage MP, said:



“The Bill makes the UK a world leader in tackling the climate and nature crisis. That leadership is needed now more than ever with the US set to be taken over once again by a climate denier.

“The legislation I am proposing would supercharge our journey to net zero while boosting safeguards to protect nature, making sure we save the planet without leaving anyone behind.

“Parliament is ready to act but we need the Government to back and not block the Bill so MPs can vote with their own hearts next week.”

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

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Images from today’s boat race will be made available via Google Drive as soon as possible afterwards:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VpNw2rLwINVBZJ8JpYB5-DGFdhAxm4w0?usp=sharing>

About Zero Hour

- [Zero Hour](#) advocates for the Climate and Nature Bill. It aims to address the UK's international climate obligations and protect ecosystems
- The Bill was first developed with members of the successful ‘Big Ask’ campaign which led to the Climate Change Act 2008, and is now led by a coalition of UK campaigners, world-leading scientists, academics and members of the public
- The Climate and Nature Bill was first introduced to Parliament in September 2020. The updated Bill was introduced in the House of Lords in June 2022

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 Roz Savage
- The ‘CAN’ Bill is backed by some 250 Parliamentarians, including Sir Ed Davey, Carla Denyer, and Zac Goldsmith. It enjoys the support of 10,000s of members of the public, more than 1,100 businesses and organisations, as well as 1,000 climate and health experts
- High-profile endorsers include Co-Operative Bank, The Body Shop, Oxfam, Save British Farming, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Ecotricity, The Wildlife Trusts and Triodos Bank