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Sir William Cash MP
House of Commons
London
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22nd March 2018

Dear Bill

EM 5846/18: Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)

Thank you for Kate Green MP's letter of 21 March in response to mine of the same date. I have considered this carefully and on further reflection, the Government will support the ESC in the Reasoned Opinion being sent to the institutions.

I reiterate that the Government remains committed to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

My intention, on behalf of the Government is to make sure that our strong support for the outcomes and intentions of the directive recast are clear, while our negotiating message is that the current proposals that are built on an uncertain base will not do and the final directive must be unequivocal in its compliance with the principle of subsidiarity. In parallel with our ongoing negotiations through the usual diplomatic channels, and in line with that, the government is therefore proposing the following motion:

"That the Committee takes note of European Union Document No. 5846/18 and Addenda 1 to 5, Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast); considers that the proposal does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity for the reasons set out in the annex to the Eighteenth Report of Session 2017-19 of the European Scrutiny Committee (HC 301-xviii) and, in accordance with Article 6 of Protocol No. 2 annexed to EU Treaties on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, instructs the Clerk of the House to forward this reasoned opinion to the Presidents of the European Institutions."

Yours sincerely,

DR THERESE COFFEY MP