



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 March 2010

Mr Harry Rayner  
Above Bridges  
Borough Green Road  
Wrotham  
Kent TN15 7RA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dear Harry,".

I thought you would find it helpful to have the latest position on the KRAFT Rail Freight Interchange.

I consider the plan to establish a massive Rail Freight Interchange in the countryside between Borough Green, Ightham, Platt and Wrotham is the single most environmentally damaging development proposal in Tonbridge and Malling since I have been its MP.

According to the figures from the Borough Council's Planning Director, this Freight Interchange will result in the loss of some 100 hectares of land, including Green Belt, and would attract some 200,000 containers a year.

Quite apart from the hideous scar this development would create on the Kent landscape, together with round the clock noise and light pollution, it will generate very significant extra heavy lorry traffic on our roads.

I read with disbelief the claim in the Malling Chronicle of the KRAFT spokesman, Colin Wilkins, that the development "will reduce the number of large vehicles travelling through Kent". This is pure illusion. Though the Interchange will connect on to the motorway system, it is self-evident that heavy lorries approaching it in a wide arc from the South will take the shortest route along Kent's roads rather than make a detour to the motorway.

cont ...



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

-2-

However, the most unacceptable and sinister feature of this proposal is that it could get planning consent from the present Government's newly created, unelected, undemocratic Infrastructure Planning Commission. The Conservatives are committed to scrapping the IPC. I hope we will see the back of the IPC before the year is out and with it the end of the grim threat of a massive Borough Green, Ightham, Platt, Wrotham container park.

*Yours sincerely*  
*John Stanley*