DRAFT FOR PUBLIC-

Dear **[Insert Name of Local MP]**,

I am writing to you today because of my concern for China’s Polar Silk Road. As I am sure you are well aware of the need for new trade deals after Brexit, I would also like to ask for your opinion and any other insights into a potential new shipping trade route known as the Polar Silk Road (also known as the Trans-Arctic Shipping Route). This is a shipping route China is hoping to use in the future due to the melting of the Arctic; China has a large amount of control over the Arctic shipping routes, which provides them more power in delegating this new Polar Silk Road. Obviously, this is a huge concern, the Arctic’s air temperature is already 1.9°C above average and the melting of the Arctic is known to cause catastrophic natural disasters, not only harming wildlife and agriculture, but also human civilisation too. By waiting for it to melt, instead of developing prevention strategies, is arguably an irresponsible way to boost efficient trading.

There needs to be a focus of wildlife within the Arctic, as well as those worldwide whose lives and livelihoods could be at risk due to the Arctic’s melting and subsequent rising seas levels. Since 1970, extinction rates have increased by 68%, which demonstrates the urgency of the need to protect wildlife, especially those whose entire habitat is under threat. The shipping passage has the potential to increase pollution due to oil spills and loose plastic, and is likely to disrupt the wildlife’s habitat and general routine. China is already the 11th most polluting country in the world and therefore must take huge responsibility in reducing their emissions to slow the rate of climate change, but their actions so far are minimal and do not appear to be on track to meet the Paris Agreement.

Based upon research, I have some potential scenarios that present as viable solutions in countering the Polar Silk Road. Firstly, the joining of the CPTPP trade agreement, in which the UK has already applied for, would allow for new trade communications with Canada, which is an Arctic State. One of Canada’s primary intentions for the Arctic State is to protect marine wildlife as it enacted the AWPPA in 1970. By ensuring strong relations with Canada, and hopefully therefore many of the remaining Arctic States, the UK can aid in the protection of the Arctic.

Another potential solution would lie in the COP 26 meeting. Unfortunately, the UK hasn’t been the best in holding to the Paris Agreement. However, if we get back on track, then we will be in a better position to hold China accountable for their lack of commitment. Then, there could be possibility for furthering the Clean Energy Partnership with China to develop renewable energy resources and technologies. This would require a focus on a specific plan and timeline instead of the current broader ones, for example, carbon free shipping. In turn, it would mean that China has a lesser need for the Polar Silk Road and can focus on clean transport, whilst also supporting the UK’s economy after leaving the EU, and both stay on path for the Paris Agreement.

According to the WWF, ‘We lose Arctic sea ice at a rate of almost 13% per decade, and over the past 30 years, the oldest and thickest ice in the Arctic has declined by a stunning 95%’. This is a global emergency, and I need your help in raising awareness for this issue. So what can you do? If you find that you feel passionately about this emergency having read my argument, please raise this concern with your peers and raise awareness by sharing what I have said today. Parliament’s report by the Government Office for Science focuses on the economic benefits of Arctic Sea Routes, but it overlooks the significant environmental consequences. I hope that you feel encouraged to take responsibility in aiding for this cause.

Thank you for your time,

**[Sign own name]**

Located **at [Insert personal address]** Mobile: **[\*optional\* Insert Personal Mobile No.]**

**Sources:**

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List of most polluted Countries: <https://www.iqair.com/us/world-most-polluted-countries> and <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/most-polluted-countries>

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