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Dear Ken

Thank you for your letter of 1 July, to Andrea Leadsom, identifying a scientific publication by the University of York titled 'Reversal of global atmospheric ethane and propane trends largely due to US oil and natural gas production'. I am replying as this matter now falls within my portfolio in the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The study identifies there has been an increase over recent years of Non Methane Hydrocarbons (NMHCs) in the atmosphere. This increase had been attributed to oil and gas operations in North America.

BEIS actively monitors international research relating to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. GHG emissions are subject to different regulations in different countries, in America the EPA only recently announced they would regulate GHG emissions from oil and gas operations (<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/epa-will-regulate-methane-emissions-from-oil-and-gas-wells/>) at all.

The UK has a strong regulatory regime which will minimise GHG emissions from shale operations, further reinforced by the introduction of the Infrastructure Act last year. The Climate Change Committee reported that UK shale gas production at a significant scale is compatible with carbon budgets if certain conditions are met, which they have set out as three "tests". The strong regulatory regime and determination to meet our carbon budgets mean those tests can and will be met.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely

JESSE NORMAN MP
Minister for Industry and Energy

1st July 2016

Lord Deben & *Andrea Leadson*
Chairman
Committee on Climate Change
7 Holbein Place
London SW1W 8NR

Please find enclosed a news article on a recent report by the University of York, together with an international team of scientists, which has identified an increase in ethane and propane gas emissions which are connected with oil and gas production in North America.

I would greatly appreciate your attention to this evidence and whether you still consider that shale gas exploration is consistent with our obligations under our carbon reduction commitment.

Kevin Hollinrake MP
Member of Parliament for Thirsk and Malton