Caroline Voaden MP

House of Commons

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Dear Ms Voaden,

**Save Our Shoreline: Slapton Line and the A379**

I am writing to support the Save Our Shoreline (registered charity no. 1210048) campaign <https://saveourshoreline.vercel.app/> to secure political backing and funding for an urgent nature-based offshore intervention to save the coastline from Hallsands to Strete Gate and to save Slapton Line, the vital A379 and the unique wildlife habitat of Slapton Ley.

This vulnerable coastline is threatened by the erosion that was triggered by the man-made dredging of the Skerries Bank at the turn of the last century to provide sand and shingle for the extension of Plymouth naval docks. The removal of millions of tons of sand and shingle from a closed, relict, coastal system set in train a vicious cycle of damage. Rising sea levels and changing weather patterns have accelerated this process in recent years and time is running out.

Reversing that dredging would not only provide a natural barrier breaking the power of the most destructive Atlantic waves but would also provide the material to renourish the beaches all along the coastline, thereby providing a sustainable and environmentally sound solution.

Shoreline defences are not a long-term solution and will not work without action offshore.

As my MP I am asking you to support this campaign and to work to secure the funding for it.

Twice in the last century our precious shoreline has made sacrifices for the nation – to extend Plymouth naval docks and to serve as a practice for D Day – it is now time that the nation repaid that sacrifice by reversing the man-made damage and putting the coastline and our communities on a sustainable footing.

Yours sincerely