**Fast-track Approvals Bill letter to your MP *(please customise when you write to your MP)***

Ministers are already receiving letters from special interest groups wanting to have their developments go through this new process. You can let your local MP know that you oppose this legislation and ask them to provide you with information on which developments in your community are on the list. To help with this we have provided template letter text below that you can use to help write your own letter.

**TEMPLATE LETTER TEXT**

Dear [*insert the name of your local MP*] MP

I live in your electorate and I am very worried about the Fast-track Approvals Bill. This law is not about fast tracking environmentally sound development as the Government already has the power to do that without changing the law.

Instead, the proposed law change is about giving ministers the power to override and undermine core environmental and conservation standards and prevent your constituents – people like me – from having a say about major developments in our own community.

I was particularly concerned that the RMA Minister Chris Bishop told TVNZ that he thinks “there will be projects that will be granted consent that would not otherwise have got a consent under the status quo. Frankly, I hope that’s why we're doing it.”

It worries me that ministers are openly talking about giving approval to developments that have been previously thrown out in Court because they were too environmentally damaging.

I am also worried about my ability to express my thoughts about developments affecting our local community. It looks like developers will be able to put forward their ideas, but my voice as a local can be ignored. This doesn't seem fair or how our democracy should work.

I am seeking your assurance that no development will be put through this environmental override process in your electorate, unless it would have been approved under existing laws. If it would fail to get permission under our existing environmental laws, it should not go ahead.

I am seeking your assurance that you will do everything in your power to make sure that your own constituents and the environment in this electorate are not adversely impacted by this Bill.

Please ask RMA Minister Chris Bishop to immediately publicly release the list of developments being considered for inclusion in the Bill to allow people to make submissions to Parliament about what is on the list. Please write back to me urgently and advise me of any developments that are being considered in our community and how we can have a say about these.

Yours sincerely,

[*sign your name and contact details*]