



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New climate change targets mean airport plans will damage other businesses**

Campaigners welcoming last night's decision by the Government to include greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation and shipping in the UK's Climate Change Bill are today warning that Bristol airport's expansion plans now mean that other local industries will pay more for the airport's free ride unless the airport curbs its growth.

The campaigners also say that expanding the airport means the rich will fly at the expense of the poor.

A majority of 460 MPs voted last night to back amendments to include aviation and shipping in the UK's Climate Change Bill, and to raise the target to cut total emissions by 80% by 2050 to prevent catastrophic climate change.

The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group (SBAE) say they are delighted with the ruling but warned that if the airlines don't make savings then other industries will have to make deeper cuts.

SBAE went on to say that with Bristol airport still planning to grow to 10 million passengers a year by 2016, other industries will bear the costs of those deeper cuts. They also said that since it is the well-off who fly the most [1], it is potentially the poor who will suffer most from rising costs to cut emissions by industries such as the energy companies.

SBAE spokesperson Jeremy Birch said: "Inclusion of the UK's international aviation emissions in our new 80% target is fantastic news. The inclusion of emissions from all flights in our carbon reduction targets at last creates a level playing field between all industries.

"It now makes sense for all industries to play their part in delivering the cuts – and that means that Bristol airport must not expand. Otherwise it will be creating a further drain on the economy as well as the millions of pounds it already loses the South West as local travellers spend more money abroad than tourists bring in."

The Climate Change Bill - which will be made law in November - will make the UK the first country in the world to commit to legally binding cuts in its greenhouse gas emissions.

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For further information on SBAE visit: [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com)

### Notes for editors

[1] The Predict and decide report, published by Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute on 1 November 2006 for the All Party Parliamentary Sustainable Aviation Group states that those who fly the most are those with household incomes far above the national average and that those who fly the least are the poorest in society.