

To:

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland

Boris Johnson, Prime Minister UK

cc: Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer

28 May 2020

### **Open letter**

#### **No bailouts or government loans for climate and plastic polluter Petroineos**

Dear First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, dear Prime Minister Boris Johnson,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals urge you not to bailout or grant any government loans to Petroineos, the joint venture of PetroChina and Ineos.

According to recent press reports[i], the company - part-owned by billionaire and tax exile Jim Ratcliffe[ii] – seeks £500m in state support for its Grangemouth facilities.

The plastics industry has reaped under-the-radar benefits from the environmentally destructive fracking boom and an oversupply of cheap ethane in the past few years. This surge has been a boon for the plastics industry, which relies on petrochemical manufacturing to turn ethane, a hydrocarbon present in natural gas, into plastics.

Beginning in 2012, chemical companies started aggressively investing in petrochemical plants, pipelines and export facilities focused on tapping the ethane glut, creating further negative implications for human and environmental rights – right at a moment when we desperately try to solve both - the big global plastic and climate crisis.[iii]

According to calculations published by the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), full plastic lifecycle emissions (including the extraction of fossil fuels, production, transport, consumption and disposal) alone will generate 56 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050. This corresponds to 10 – 13 per cent of the global carbon budget we have left to stay within a 1.5 ° global warming scenario.

Ineos is the main driving force behind the establishment of an already existing supply chain of fracked US gas that Ineos uses to produce plastics in Europe[iv]. The Ineos Dragon Ships crossing the Atlantic emblazoned with the slogan “Shale Gas for Europe” are leaving more than a toxic legacy in Europe – they are fueling the proliferation of fracking in Pennsylvania, a state that was already struggling with the impacts of oil and gas industry pollution.

The company is also known for publicly opposing green policies and taxes[v] – while at the same time it sees no contradiction in making use of a state loan guarantee[vi] to maintain its otherwise unprofitable

fracking for plastics business model. According to their annual report 2019, Ineos is “*significantly indebted and as of December 31, 2019, had total consolidated loans and borrowings of €6,887.3 million as compared to total equity of €1,528.0 million*”.[vii]

The company has operated chemical plants for nearly two decades, but in that short time, many of its facilities have been bedevilled by environmental problems. Its dozens of manufacturing facilities across Europe have been responsible for releases of toxic chemicals, leaks, fires and explosions that have endangered workers, communities and the environment.[viii] Ineos also has been rated several times the worst air polluter in Scotland.[ix]

Despite being Europe’s largest virgin plastics producer, the company refuses so far to take responsibility for contributing to billions of plastic pellets littering beaches and nature protection zones in the UK[x] and elsewhere.[xi]

Humanity is currently being tested in manifold ways - with manmade global warming as the biggest and most comprehensive existential threat ever faced.

The UK will host in Glasgow, a very crucial climate change conference – possibly paving the way for decades to come.

Bailouts or government loans for companies like PetroIneos, who contribute systemically through their business model to climate change and an increasing plastic pollution of our environment and oceans, cannot be tolerated in these troubled times.

Any support packages for companies must set conditions to protect workers’ rights and high environmental standards, prevent public money from being diverted into the pockets of shareholders, and re-orientate the industry towards meeting the Paris climate agreement.

What we need right now, is swift and radical action for the much-needed shift to 100% sustainable renewable energy, an increase in energy efficiency and a sustainable circular economy that focuses on drastically reducing single-use plastics.

This must be planned for and managed in deep partnership with trade unions, workers and communities to ensure a Just Transition into clean industry that guarantees decent work for those impacted and secure local economies.






Every investment in or support for Ineos would directly fuel the climate and plastics crisis, locking in future instability at a time when investment should be prioritised towards creating secure and sustainable industry.


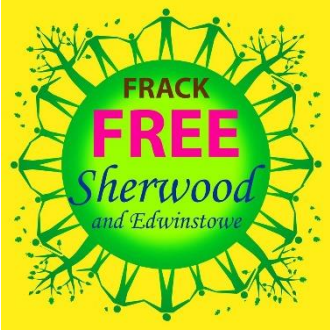




We call on you to side with the climate and the environment, prioritising long term stability for workers through green jobs, and we urge you not to bailout or to grant government loans to PetroIneos

Sincerely,

Signatory	Logo
<p>1. Andy Gheorghiu, Policy Advisor, Food &amp; Water Action Europe</p>	
<p>2. Joe Corré, Founder, Talk Fracking</p>	
<p>3. Dame Vivienne Westwood</p>	
<p>4. Prof. Robert Howarth, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA</p>	<p>Howarthlab.org</p>
<p>5. Richard Dixon, Director, Friends of the Earth Scotland</p>	
<p>6. Louise Edge, Head of Oceans Plastic Campaign, Greenpeace UK</p>	

<p>7. Steve Mason, campaign lead of Frack Free United</p>	
<p>8. Delphine Lévi Alvarès, European coordinator of Break Free From Plastic</p>	<p>#break free from plastic</p>
<p>9. Sarah Moyes, Chair, Plastic Free Scotland</p>	
<p>10. Antoinette Vermilye, co-founder, Gallifrey Foundation</p>	 <p>GALLIFREY FOUNDATION</p>
<p>11. Pauline Meechan, Treasurer - Sherwood Forest Friends of the Earth</p>	
<p>12. Maria Westerbos, Founder &amp; Director Plastic Soup Foundation</p>	

<p>13. Claire Stephenson, Spokesperson, Frack Free Lancashire</p>	
<p>14. Jennifer Dixon, Frack Free East Yorkshire</p>	
<p>15. Bob Street, Co-Ordinator, Coal Aston &amp; Dronfield Against Fracking</p>	
<p>16. Eilidh Robb, COP26 Coordinator, UK Youth Climate Coalition,</p>	
<p>17. Norman Philip, Local Group Coordinator, Friends of the Earth Falkirk</p>	

<p>18. Tammy Murphy, Medical Advocacy Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania USA</p>	 <p><b>PSR</b> <small>1985 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE</small> <b>PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY</b> U.S. AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR</p>
<p>19. Pauline Meechan, Coordinator of Frack free Sherwood Forest &amp; Edwinstowe</p>	 <p><b>FRACK FREE</b> <i>Sherwood and Edwinstowe</i></p>
<p>20. Olga Speranskaya, Alexandra Caterbow, Co-Directors, HEJSupport</p>	 <p><b>hej!support</b> health . environment . justice</p>
<p>21. Dave Adam, Caroline and David Davis and all of Frack Free Ryedale</p>	 <p><b>FRACK FREE</b> <b>RYEDALE</b></p>
<p>22. Adrian Palmer, Spokesperson Frack Free York and Villages</p>	 <p><b>FRACK FREE</b> <b>YORK &amp; VILLAGES</b></p>
<p>23. Collin Rees, Senior Campaigner, Oil Change International</p>	 <p><b>OILCHANGE</b> INTERNATIONAL</p>

<p>24. Lorraine Inglis, Spokesperson, Weald Action Group</p>	 <p><b>WEALD</b> ACTION GROUP</p>
<p>25. Barbara Richardson, Chair Roseacre Awareness Group</p>	
<p>26. Sylvia May - Outreach Lead - Frack Free Isle of Wight</p>	
<p>27. Scott Tully, Spokesperson, Glasgow Calls Out Polluters</p>	
<p>28. Isla Scott, Frackwatch</p>	

<p>29. Kevin Ogilvie-White, Frack Free EQS (Exmoor Quantocks Sedgemoor)</p>	
<p>30. Greg Hewitt, Plastic Free Chesterfield</p>	
<p>31. Carrol Muffet, CEO, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)</p>	
<p>32. Emma Ruby-Sachs, Executive Director, SumOfUs</p>	
<p>33. David Penney, Spokesperson, Keep East Lancashire Frack Free</p>	



<p>34. John Higgins, Coordinator Fracking Free Clare</p>	
<p>35. Vivian Stockman, executive director OVEC- Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Huntington, West Virginia, USA</p>	
<p>36. Karen Feridun, Co-founder, Better Path Coalition, Pennsylvania, USA</p>	<p><b>BETTER PATH COALITION</b></p> 
<p>37. Patricia J. Popple, Editor of the Frac Sand Sentinel</p>	
<p>38. Sorcha Kavanagh- Conscious Cup Campaign, Ireland</p>	
<p>39. Susan Gough, Spokesperson, Frack Free Kirby Misperton</p>	<p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/750440025052481/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/750440025052481/</a></p>
<p>40. Tim Bluff-Higgins, Chair, Llantrithyd Residents Association</p>	<p><a href="http://www.llantrithyd.com/">http://www.llantrithyd.com/</a></p>
<p>41. Jim Emberger, Spokesperson, New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance</p>	<p><a href="https://www.noshalegasnb.ca/">https://www.noshalegasnb.ca/</a></p>

<p>42. Dennis May, Industrial Health and Safety Advisor; Frack Free Misson</p>	
<p>43. Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, USA</p>	
<p>44. James Murphy, Chair, Love Leitrim</p>	
<p>45. Aideen McCarthy, Frack Off London</p>	
<p>46. Devika Mokhtarzadeh, Trustee - The Savitri Waney Charitable Trust</p>	






<p>47. Frank Schweikert, Executive Board German Marine Litter Association e.V.,</p>	 <p><b>Bundesverband Meeresmüll e.V.</b></p>
<p>48. Katrin Meyer, Head of Office German Ocean Foundation</p>	 <p><b>Deutsche Meeresstiftung</b> German Ocean Foundation</p>
<p>49. Nele van den Bongardt, Project Manager Hamburg Climate Week</p>	 <p><b>Hamburger Klimawoche</b></p>
<p>50. Fabienne McLellan, Co-Director International Relations, OceanCare</p>	 <p><b>ocean care</b></p>
<p>51. Anna Gavazzi, Trustee Fauna and Flora International</p>	 <p><b>FAUNA &amp; FLORA INTERNATIONAL</b></p>

<p>52. Helen Mitchem, Gary Robinson, Karen Bannochie, Brian Davey - Ecological Economist, Frack Free Notts</p>	
<p>53. Isla Scott, Divest Strathclyde</p>	
<p>54. Ellie Wyatt, Spokesperson, Frack Free Sussex</p>	
<p>55. Debra Mallard, Spokesperson, Frack Frack Surrey</p>	

<p>56. Richard Curtin, Not Here Not Anywhere</p>	
<p>57. Karl Hodson, Spokesperson, Frack Free Mansfield Woodhouse</p>	
<p>58. Vicky Cann, Corporate Europe Observatory</p>	
<p>59. Maureen McCue MD PhD, President PSR Iowa Chapter, Iowa USA</p>	
<p>60. Ali Abbas, Frack Free Greater Manchester</p>	

<p>61. Jill Sutcliffe, Chair, Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green, KKWG, West Sussex, UK</p>	<p><a href="http://www.frackfreesussex.co.uk/kirdford-wisborough-green">http://www.frackfreesussex.co.uk/kirdford-wisborough-green</a></p>
<p>62. Emily Mott and Ann Stewart, Markwells Wood Watch, West Sussex UK</p>	<p><a href="https://en-gb.facebook.com/MarkwellsWoodWatch/">https://en-gb.facebook.com/MarkwellsWoodWatch/</a></p>
<p>63. Mindy O'Brien, Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment</p>	
<p>64. Brook Lenker, Executive Director, FracTracker Alliance.</p>	
<p>65. Joanie Steinhaus, Program Director, Gulf of Mexico, Turtle Island Restoration Network</p>	
<p>66. Angela Kenny, Campaign Lead, Sick of Plastic Ireland</p>	

<p>67. Ingmar Rentzhog, Founder, WeDon'tHaveTime</p>	<p><a href="http://WeDontHaveTime.org">http://WeDontHaveTime.org</a></p>
<p>68. Juan Carlos Gracia -board member &amp; spokesman, Plataforma Ciudadana Zaragoza sin Fractura (Spain)</p>	 <p>¡AQUILES, NO! NO A LA FRACTURA HIDRÁULICA PLATAFORMA ZARAGOZASINFRACTURA</p>
<p>69. Samuel Martín-Sosa, International coordinator, Ecologistas en Acción</p>	 <p>ecologistas en acción</p>
<p>70. Dr Reinhard Knof, Spokesperson, Bürgerinitiative Kein CO2 Endlager e.V.</p>	 <p>STOPPT CO<sub>2</sub>-Endlager und Fracking STOPPT DEN WAHSINN! WWW.KEIN-CO2-ENDLAGER.DE</p>

<p>71. Climate Change Ireland</p>	
<p>72. FÍS NUA</p>	
<p>73. KEEP IRELAND FRACKING FREE</p>	
<p>74. Tomasz Wojciechowski, Polish Circular Economy Institute</p>	
<p>75. Elizabeth Cruse, The Warriors Call Pagans United against Fracking</p>	
<p>76. Michael Sawyer, Executive Director, Citizen's Oil &amp; Gas Council, Canada.</p>	



<p>77. Suelita Rocker, Climate Activist, 350 Brazil</p>	
<p>78. Livia Lie, Digital Strategist for 350 Latin America</p>	
<p>79. Ignacio Zavaleta, Fracking Activist, 350 Argentina</p>	
<p>80. Juliano Bueno de Araujo, Founder and Climate Activist of Não Fracking Brazil, Brazil</p>	
<p>81. Rui Ogawa, fracking activist and Arayara's director</p>	
<p>82. Aleksandra Niewczas, Chairwoman of the board, Polskie Stowarzyszenie Zero Waste. (Polish Zero Waste Association)</p>	

83. Ana Rocha, Executive Director, Nipe Fagio Tanzania



84. Sarah Stewart, President, Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.







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[www.animalsaresentientbeings.org](http://www.animalsaresentientbeings.org)





85. Neil Bye, Extinction Rebellion Teesside






86. Avena Jacklin, Climate & Energy Campaign Manager, groundWork - Friends of the Earth South Africa



<p>87. Jojo Mehta, Stop Ecocide International</p>	
<p>88. Holly-Anna Petersen, Christian Climate Action</p>	
<p>89. Susana Fonseca - ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System</p>	
<p>90. Michael Vickery, Frack Free Yeovil</p>	
<p>91. Woodrow W. Clark II MA3 PhD</p>	<p><a href="https://www.planetforward.org/users/woodrow">https://www.planetforward.org/users/woodrow</a></p>
<p>92. Jean Hesketh, co-ordinator for Frack Free Dudleston</p>	<p><a href="http://frackfreedudleston.org.uk/">http://frackfreedudleston.org.uk/</a></p>

<p>93. Vamsi Sankar Kapilavai, Senior Researcher, Citizen consumer and civic Action Group</p>	
<p>94. Angus Ho, Executive Director. Greeners Action, Hong Kong</p>	
<p>95. Jane Quin, for Pietermaritzburg Climate Crisis Coalition</p>	
<p>96. Paul Beer, Spokesperson The British Druid Order</p>	

<p>97. Climaxi, Belgium</p>	
<p>98. Antwerp Shale Gas Free, Belgium</p>	
<p>99. Inland Ocean Coalition</p>	
<p>100. Mary Gutierrez, Earth Action, Inc. USA</p>	

101. Rebecca Roter, Chairperson,  
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County,  
Montrose PA USA



102. Sigrun Franzen, Berliner  
Wassertisch e.V.



**Berliner Wassertisch**  
[www.berliner-wassertisch.info](http://www.berliner-wassertisch.info)

103. Belgium Grootouders voor het  
klimaat - Grandparents for Climate



104. Youth for Climate, Belgium



105. #IneosWillFall Coalition, Antwerp, Belgium



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