



**April 2015**

Dear Party Leaders,

Industrialists, environmentalists and professional bodies have called on all the parties to commit to an **Office for Resource Management (ORM)**, a cost-neutral government-based office to provide oversight and coordination to policy relating to resource security, efficiency and husbandry.

The UK is amongst the world's most import-dependent economies, meaning our companies, our economy and our nation's broader wealth and well-being are vulnerable to interruptions in the supply of natural resources.

Recent falls in the price of some commodities and raw materials are short-term and reflect continuing volatility. The same dependence on imported resources means that the UK has significant impact on people and the environment around the world.

Alongside the ORM, an early duty of any incoming government must be to **conduct a review of the UK's exposure to raw material supply risks**, recommending policies for a more resource efficient and resilient economy.

This would bring the UK in line with other manufacturing nations, which already have strategies in place to shield their economies from resource risks, leaving the UK lagging behind. We cannot afford to continue with the piecemeal and contradictory approach to resource efficiency exhibited to date.

This is not a subject to play party politics with: we need to see true cross-party support. Though the Coalition record on UK resources policy has been poor, the Liberal Democrats recently voted to establish an ORM and run the raw material supply review<sup>1</sup>. Labour have announced that they would run the raw material supply review and made warm noises about the ORM<sup>2</sup>, but have failed to convert that into a meaningful commitment.

To have a credible mid-to-long term approach to running the economy all parties need to publicly commit to the ORM and the review of UK material supply risks. We look to you during these final weeks of campaigning to voice your support for these important initiatives.

Signed by members of the **Material Security Working Group**:

*Institution of Civil Engineers*

*Packaging Federation*

*Mineral Products Association*

*Friends of the Earth (England, Wales & Northern Ireland)*

*ADS Group*

*Resource Association*

*Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment*

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<sup>1</sup> Liberal Democrats (2015), Spring Conference: Conference Daily. Saturday 14 March 2015, P.11  
<http://www.libdems.org.uk/environment>

<sup>2</sup> For example, as reported in LetsRecycle.com, *Labour MP: Coalition has 'patronised' waste industry*, 13 March 2015 [www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/labour-mp-coalition-has-patronised-waste-industry/](http://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/labour-mp-coalition-has-patronised-waste-industry/) (accessed 25/03/2015).