**Letter to your Member of Parliament – template**

[*NB: this is very much a template. An MP in a deprived area might have very different concerns to one in a rich area and a Tory MP may need to be approached in a different way from a Labour one, i.e. tailoring will be required for your own case*]

Dear [],

I am a member of the Labour Land Campaign, a cross-party group that advocates the introduction of a Land Value Tax (LVT) to replace economically inefficient taxes. As you know, the prices of goods and services are raised by taxes on work like Income Tax and National Insurance contributions as well as taxes on business and investment like Corporation Tax and Business Rates; this eliminates jobs and cuts down productivity and competitiveness. Taxes on trade like VAT similarly raise prices, and both VAT and Council Tax fall unfairly heavily on the poorest people and the most deprived parts of the country. These six pernicious taxes account for some 85% of government revenue.

Almost all economists from across the political spectrum agree that only one form of taxation is economically neutral, namely an annual tax levied on the rental value of land, irrespective of any buildings or other improvements on it. Being a tax on wealth, LVT would tend to fall on those most able to pay: it would be fair. Being a tax on land, LVT would be unavoidable: it would expand the tax base. Moreover, LVT would lower land prices and get rid of incentives to leave potentially useful land idle: it would help economically productive business (especially in deprived regions) and solve the housing crisis.

With the Chancellor having identified the three main challenges facing the country in 2016 as low productivity, the housing crisis and inequality (both social and geographical), LVT—however politically tricky—would seem to be a no-brainer. As an article in the Economist said last year, “*Politically tricky problems are ten-a-penny but few offer those who solve them a trillion pound reward*.”

If you are not familiar with all the advantages of LVT over any of our current taxes (only a few of which are mentioned here), please have a look at the Labour Land Campaign Web site [*http://www.labourland.org*] and I would welcome the chance to speak to you about it face to face.

Yours sincerely,