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Dear Supporter

### **High Court Challenge**

Following positive advice from our barristers and in the light of the overwhelming response from members and supporters who have contacted SSE over the past three weeks, we have lodged an Appeal with the High Court on the Government's recent decision to approve an extra 10m passengers and additional aircraft movements at Stansted - the 'G1' application which was considered at last year's Public Inquiry.

Our legal action challenges three aspects of the Government's decision:

- 1) that the increase in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gas emissions, however substantial, can be disregarded in the decision to approve the extra flights;
- 2) that the economic impact on the UK trade deficit, however adverse, can be disregarded;
- 3) that the adverse noise impacts upon local residents and people living further afield cannot amount to a reason for refusal because it would frustrate Government policy.

We consider the Government's reasoning on these points to have been wrong in law and in breach of clear assurances previously provided at our High Court challenge in 2004. If allowed to go uncontested the Government's G1 decision could have impacts on the case against a second runway at Stansted when that Inquiry starts next year.

While having to raise funds for the High Court Appeal will be a major challenge, we believe that we have no choice but to pursue it in order to protect our position going forward and to achieve the wider strategic objectives of our campaign. Appealing the G1 decision is also in keeping with our longstanding commitment to our membership and the local community to fight the expansion proposals for Stansted every step of the way.

We will keep you posted when we know more about timings for the hearing of our Appeal in the High Court. In the meantime, please help us to ensure that we do not lose this battle through a shortage of the necessary financial resources. You can donate to our 'G1 Appeal Fund' by using the enclosed form. Donations already made towards our 'Second Runway Fighting Fund' are ring-fenced for that purpose and so to all intents and purposes we are starting from scratch to raise the funds needed for the High Court Appeal.

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### **Progress on the arrangements for the second runway application**

A huge 'thank you' is due to the 450 people who attended the second runway Pre Inquiry Meeting at the Hilton Hotel earlier this month. It is bound to have sent a very powerful message to the Inspector to have been faced with such a large body of representation from the local community, as well as spokesmen from national environmental organisations including Greenpeace, the Campaign for Better Transport, World Development Movement and even our counterparts at Heathrow who came to voice their support and to reinforce our arguments about the unfairness of the Inquiry arrangements as originally proposed.

At the very least the Inspector seems to have understood the overwhelming hostility to the idea of concurrent Public Inquiry sessions, agreeing to reconsider this proposal and report back. SSE still has concerns over other aspects of the Inquiry arrangements on which we will be making further written representations to the Planning Inspectorate this week. We are also aware that many people attending the meeting were taken aback by some of the remarks made by the Inspector. We would be interested to have more details of your views in writing (by post or email) if you can spare the time to provide them.

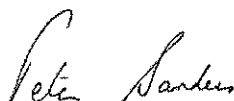
Meanwhile, if you are interested to read a copy of the Inspector's Note of the Pre Inquiry Meeting this is accessible online at the Planning Inspectorate's website at: [www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/stanstedg2inquiry/pre\\_inquiry.html](http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/stanstedg2inquiry/pre_inquiry.html) (or we can provide you with a hard copy if you do not have access to the Internet).

It appears from the Inspector's Note that he has decided to allow the programming meeting provisionally scheduled for Monday 19 January to be opened up to the public who can attend as observers. We will advise when we know more about the arrangements for this meeting which, once again, will be held at the Stansted Hilton.

If you have not yet registered to speak at the Inquiry, scheduled to start in April 2009, and would like to do so, or if you would like to make your views on the second runway application known in writing (even if you have already written to UDC), you should notify the Inquiry Manager, Carmel Edwards, on 0117 372 8453 or by email at [stanstedg2inquiry@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stanstedg2inquiry@pins.gsi.gov.uk). She will be able to explain the procedures which will help you to do this and to submit any written views on matters raised at the Pre Inquiry Meeting. You can, of course, contact our campaign office for advice as well.

Finally, you might like to know that one of our members has offered to help anyone who would like assistance in preparing to speak at the Inquiry, including tips to help you overcome any nervousness about public speaking. If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Peter Sanders  
Chairman

Encs