

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GREAT YARMOUTH



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

6 June 2018

ASE REFERENCE: MLA/2018/00174

RE: Application by Tarmac Marine Ltd to permit continued extraction of aggregate and associated surveys for up 6,000,000 tonnes over a 15 year period.

Dear Sir/Madam

As the Member of Parliament for Great Yarmouth, I am writing to formally object to the above application. As I am sure you are aware, a significant number of dredging licenses have been approved or extended within sea zones near to the coastline of Great Yarmouth and neighbouring authorities and local residents and agencies have serious concerns about this.

As a coastal community, the constituency of Great Yarmouth is acutely aware of the power of the sea and the ongoing damage caused to parts of our coastline by erosion. Whilst, thankfully, some parts of the borough have strong defences and some beaches are growing, there remain serious challenges to our coastline in large areas of the borough especially in the areas to the north of the town. The borough is rightly renowned for our beautiful sandy beaches, but sand is especially vulnerable to changes in sediment flow and adverse weather or tidal changes.

Whilst I appreciate that there is not a scientific consensus that dredging affects coastal erosion, there is considerable anecdotal evidence to suggest a relationship and I strongly believe that the continuing removal of material from sea, comparatively close to the coastline, could result in a disruption to the natural sediment flow, potentially creating further problems for coastal communities, either in Great Yarmouth or further along the coast.

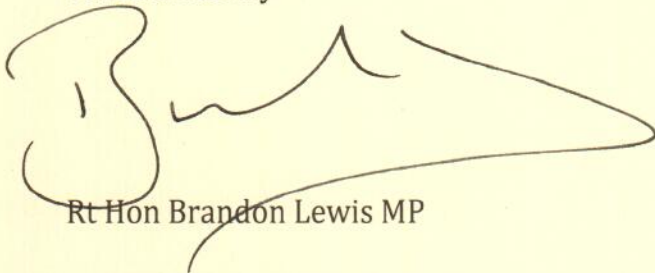
Considering this seriousness of this concern, I therefore cannot support the continuation of an activity which could potentially add to the difficulties faced by vulnerable communities within my constituency.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that my objection is lodged and properly considered and provide me with a written response.

In addition to this, I would appreciate it if you could kindly notify of me any subsequent marine aggregate dredging applications or license extension requests in the vicinity of the Great Yarmouth coastline.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brandon Lewis', written over a printed name. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'B' and a long horizontal stroke.

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP