Dear (Write your MP's name here),

Government Consultation on Single-Use Plastic items (wet wipes)

I am writing to say how pleased I am that the government has opened a consultation on single-use plastic items and I urge you to respond to the consultation and promote it through your constituency work and social media.

The River Thames and its tributaries are suffering a plague of wet wipes. Of the 11 billion of these disposable wipes sold each year in Britain, an estimated 2.5 billion are wrongly flushed down the lavatories. Recent sonar and laser scans of the Thames riverbed revealed a "reef" of wet wipes that has grown to the size of two tennis courts in Hammersmith, West London, changing the contours of the river and threatening its wildlife.

The principle problem is that 90% of wet wipes, even some labelled "flushable", are made with plastics that do not break up like tissue paper when flushed. Instead they enter rivers, snagging on twigs and rocks on the foreshore before natural sediments glue them together.

I would like the government to make it a legal requirement for all wet wipes that do not meet the 'Fine to Flush' standard to be banned. Fine to Flush is an official standard, introduced by Water UK, identifying which wet wipes can be flushed down the toilets safely so we are delighted that the government have launched a consultation on single-use plastic items, especially wet wipes.

Please could you support our cause and promote the consultation at:

Call for evidence on commonly littered and problematic plastic items - Page 1 of 9 - Defra - Citizen Space

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

(Your name here)