

ALAN CUMMING

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
President, COP26

30 June 2021

Via e-mail: alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Sharma:

My friends at PETA have asked you to serve only vegan food at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in order to help halt climate change and other environmental problems. I, too, hope you will make the event kinder to both animals and the planet by taking meat off the menu and serving only vegan meals.

If we are to tackle the climate crisis, we must face the facts: raising animals for food requires massive amounts of land, crops, energy, and water and causes immense animal suffering. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, raising and killing animals for food is the leading cause of ocean dead zones, water pollution, species extinction, and habitat destruction. University of Oxford researcher Joseph Poore studied the effects of various foods from 40,000 farms in 119 countries and concluded that going vegan is “the single biggest way” for everyone to reduce their impact on the planet – much more so than flying less or buying an electric car.

Given that animal agriculture contributes to many of the serious environmental problems the planet is facing, I hope you’ll agree that serving meat while trying to fight climate change is like serving beer at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. It’s irresponsible and unhelpful.

The fact that the event will be held in Glasgow, frequently cited as one of the most vegan-friendly cities in the world, makes offering a fully vegan menu all the more exciting. Popular local vegan eateries include Mono, The Glasvegan, and Serenity Now – and PETA would be happy to connect you with renowned plant-based chefs to help devise a sensational menu that all will enjoy.

If the goal of the COP26 summit is to protect the planet – as well as promote compassionate, responsible behaviour – animal-derived foods have no place on the menu.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Alan Cumming