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Aelod o'r Senedd dros
Mynwy

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Dear Catherine

I am writing following your recent article in the South Wales Argus calling for a third Severn Crossing.

I have to say that I was quite surprised to hear of this change of position from you, considering that Welsh Labour have decided against building any new roads in Wales, a position that was made clear prior to the 2024 General Election. This has meant that we have seen the M4 relief road, a vital programme to ease congestion for people in South Wales scrapped. The Chepstow bypass, which would have offered improved access to the M4, and massively reduced pressure on the already strained Highbeech roundabout, also scrapped.

I am note that one of the key issues being raised with you by Chepstow residents is traffic congestion; this is one of the issues that has been raised with me ever since I became a Member of the Senedd, and even before as Leader of Monmouthshire County Council. This is why I have long been a supporter of the bypass at Chepstow, as have the Conservative Party, who have long been calling for it for several years.

As you will know, a motion was brought forward by the Conservative group in the Senedd in June 2024, calling on the Welsh Government to deliver a Chepstow bypass, but this was voted down by Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru. A bypass was a key part of the manifesto for the Monmouthshire Conservative Council group in their 2022 manifesto, with the Conservative Party also making a commitment to funding the bypass in the run up to the 2024 General Election. This, I am sure you will agree, shows a real commitment to delivering a solution that will solve the problems in Chepstow once and for all.

I would therefore like to suggest that instead of looking at a third crossing over the River Severn, that we instead all come together in calling for, and ultimately delivering the Chepstow bypass.

I would be happy to do whatever I can in my role as Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Rural Affairs and Infrastructure in putting the case forward to Welsh Government. If I were to have your support in doing so too as our MP, it would only strengthen our case to delivering real improvements for our residents in Chepstow.

Yours sincerely,
Peter

Peter Fox MS for Monmouth