Dear (name of election candidate),

I am writing to you as a resident of (your constituency) and a voter in this year’s Welsh Parliament election. While there are many issues that are important to me and will determine my eventual voting choice, I am particularly concerned about the health of our seas.

With more than half of Welsh seas technically under some form of protection, they should be thriving – but they’re not. None of Wales’ Marine Protected Areas are fully safe from damaging activities and more than half of them are in an unfavourable conservation status. I want to see all damaging activates in these areas banned and for them to be granted the high protections they need.

Our precious seas are also being choked by marine litter, with an average of 162 pieces of plastic found per 100m of Welsh coastline during our recent volunteer-led beach clean. Many of these litter items could be either banned or replaced with reusable alternatives. I want the next Welsh Government to take an ambitious approach towards ending plastic pollution by introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers and a charge on single-use beverage cups. I also want to see an Extended Producer Responsibility placed on product manufacturers so that they are responsible for all of the costs incurred during a product’s lifecycle.

Now that we have left the European Union, I want to see a focus on the long-term viability of all species and habitats affected by fishing. I would like fisheries to be fully documented to inform effective management, and for all vessels to be fitted with monitoring devices.

As you know, we are facing a climate and ecological emergency and imminent action is needed to ensure that our seas our healthy for generations to come. As the potential representative for my area, I want to ensure that you are committed to protecting our seas before I cast my vote. Can you please assure me that your party has the relevant ambition and the ready-to-go plan of action that our seas so desperately need?

Yours sincerely,

(your name)