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Our Ref: KH/rc

07 May 2008

Dear Mr Hunt,

Thank you for your e-mailed letter about access to rivers for non-powered craft. I had already signed the main motion of the EDM before Martin Salter MP's amendment.

However, as you say in your letter, the government appears to prefer the policy outlined in Martin Salter's amendment and there are no plans to change this.

Thank you for writing to me about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Hopkins'.

Kelvin Hopkins MP

Enc.

Please reply to:-



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Printable Early Day Motion

EDM 1331

RIVER ACCESS FOR NON-POWERED CRAFT

03.04.2008

Grogan, John

52 signatures

Battle, John	Beith, AJ	<i>Bottomley, Peter</i>
Burgon, Colin	Chaytor, David	Clark, Katy
Cohen, Harry	Connarty, Michael	Cook, Frank
Cryer, Ann	Cummings, John	Davidson, Ian
Dismore, Andrew	Donaldson, Jeffrey	Drew, David
Foster, Michael Jabez	George, Andrew	Gidley, Sandra
Hancock, Mike	Hemming, John	Hesford, Stephen
Holmes, Paul	Hopkins, Kelvin	Hunter, Mark
Iddon, Brian	Illsley, Eric	Jones, Lynne
<i>Kemp, Fraser</i>	Leech, John	Mackay, Andrew
Mackinlay, Andrew	McCafferty, Chris	McCrea, Dr William
McDonnell, John	Meale, Alan	Oaten, Mark
O'Hara, Edward	Olnier, Bill	<i>Pope, Greg</i>
Prentice, Gordon	Robinson, Iris	Russell, Bob
Singh, Marsha	Spink, Bob	<i>Spring, Richard</i>
<i>Stunell, Andrew</i>	Taylor, David	Taylor, Ian
Truswell, Paul	Vis, Rudi	Williams, Stephen

That this House urges the Government to extend legislation on access to the countryside in England and Wales to allow canoeists and users of non-powered craft similar access rights to water as walkers have to the land; notes that in Scotland such access, accompanied by a code of rights and responsibilities for all concerned, has been successfully implemented; and believes that increased access to waterways would lead to greater participation in canoeing, resulting both in obvious health benefits to the nation and in increased chances of future Olympic success.

As an Amendment to Grogan, John's proposed Motion (RIVER ACCESS FOR NON-POWERED CRAFT):

EDM 1331A1

RIVER ACCESS FOR NON-POWERED CRAFT

23.04.2008

Salter, Martin

6 signatures

Cruddas, Jon
Walker, Charles

Havard, Dai
Waltho, Lynda

Laxton, Bob

leave out from 'Government' to end and add 'to continue its policy that any increase in access to canoeists and non-powered craft being voluntary access agreements only, which have been proven to work in both England and Wales; believes that the users of all canoes and non-powered craft on inland waterways should be subject to the same restrictions as anglers, and the same penalties for infringements; further believes that the Environment Agency should have the power to close any waterway to any craft in the interests of protecting sensitive aquatic environments; and considers that, notwithstanding the forthcoming Olympic Games, it should be remembered that angling is a sport which has four million participants in England and Wales with an annual economy of £3.5 billion and which has had great success in the recent World Championships'.