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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Yeo".

I refer to your letter dated 14 May enclosing correspondence that you have received from a number of your constituents, regarding aspects of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (LDEDC) Bill.

I note their concerns in relation to Part 5 of the Bill which concerns the new regional strategy that will replace separate regional spatial and economic strategies. As you may know, the Bill has been considered by the House of Lords and is now due to be considered in the Commons.

In response, I would like to draw your attention to the *Policy Document on Regional Strategies* which we published in January 2009 to help explain the provisions in the Bill and how it is intended to operate, because I think this will provide advice which is relevant to their concerns. The document is available at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/ldeedcregionalstrategies>

I particularly refer you to

paragraphs 1.1-1.6 on the purpose of regional strategy

paragraphs 2.3-2.5 on content of regional strategy and

paragraphs 3.17-19 and 4.18-24 on stakeholder and community involvement.

Your constituents specifically suggest that the Bill should contain a definition of 'sustainable economic growth' and include minimum standards for stakeholder and community involvement. These both relate to matters raised during the debate in the House of Lords, but ultimately the Peers agreed to a Bill which did not include such changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Healey".

A second handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Healey".
JOHN HEALEY MP