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Our ref: MCB2019/07776/AC

9 May 2019

*Rebecca*

Thank you for your letter dated 3 April. I was delighted to speak at the parliamentary event on The Economics of Soil.

As I set out in my speech, healthy soil is at the very heart of many of the biggest challenges of our time, including reducing the risk of flooding, delivering our global food supplies and reducing our carbon emissions. I would like to reiterate my thanks to you and the Sustainable Soils Alliance for the crucial work that you do.

I am very happy to introduce the Sustainable Soils Alliance to the University of Hertfordshire and I have asked Andrew Cole at Natural England to work with the Sustainable Soils Alliance. He can be contacted at: ([andrew.cole@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:andrew.cole@naturalengland.org.uk)).

As you point out, innovative technology will play an important role in improving soil health. Our £90 million investment in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund: Transforming Food Production will support projects to improve the productivity and sustainability of farming by developing enhanced decision support and precision agricultural systems. This will make it easier for farmers to embrace new technology, enhancing their competitiveness, improving productivity and creating new opportunities for growth.

I look forward to working closely with the Sustainable Skills Alliance and I would encourage them to contact Helen Fox and Kathryn Brown, joint heads of Agri-Tech at BEIS ([Foxbrown-jobshare@beis.gov.uk](mailto:Foxbrown-jobshare@beis.gov.uk)) who will be happy to coordinate work to explore the role of technology in improving soil health.

*with best wishes*

**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP**  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy