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| [Your Name][Address] · [Phone] · [Email] |
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[Date]

[Recipient Name]

[Title]

[House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA]

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| Dear [Recipient]**MASS IMPOVERISHMENT** [Introductory sentence about being a member of the constituency and whether or not you have had contact before]. I am sure that you were as shocked as I was when the Institute for Fiscal Studies reported,*“On these projections, real wages will, remarkably, still be below their 2008 levels in 2021. One cannot stress enough how dreadful that is – more than a decade without real earnings growth…. We have certainly not seen a period remotely like it in the last 70 years.”*I know that you would like to be part of the solution: and I have a concrete suggestion for you. I have recently come across a book, entitled *99%*, written by Mark Thomas, who used to lead the Strategy practice at a major UK consultancy. In this book he details through analysis how current policies in many economies, including the US and the UK, are driving a process he refers to as *mass impoverishment* – i.e. despite the fact that real *per capita* GDP is still growing, and the country as a whole is richer than it has ever been, most people are feeling and getting poorer. Median real wage growth in the UK over the last 10 years has been negative – hence the IFS comments – and his analysis shows that a simple continuation of current trends would result in real median wages in 2050 having fallen almost halfway to today's poverty line! In his book, Mark debunks a number of myths with fact-based analysis – which would fit well with your desire for evidence-based policy. For example, he shows that government debt is not in fact at historically high levels - viewed over the last seven years, yes, but not when viewed over the last 300 years. To say "there is no magic money tree" is factually wrong - in a *fiat* system, governments can and do print money (or simply create it electronically: you will remember quantitative easing). Hence there are more policy levers (in addition to taxation) available than we are often told is the case. The book runs to 300 pages and includes a recommendations for building a future where we not only grow GDP faster but also distribute that growth more fairly – so the 99% majority of the population benefit, not just the wealthiest 1% The first steps are to define measures that measure whether the typical member of the public is benefiting from economic growth, publish progress against these as key performance indicators (e.g. when the ONS reports on GDP) and seek parliamentary consensus that it is the constitutional responsibility of government to implement policies that benefit the 99%, not just the 1%. A (small at present!) organisation has been set up to disseminate these ideas both to the public at large, and specifically to the main political parties. I would be delighted to share the ideas with you in more detail, at your convenience.  Would you like to discuss the ideas further?[Personalised ending to the letter][Your Name] |