*Sample letter:*

Dear Councillor………

I am writing to you as your constituent to ask you to support fossil-free local government pensions.

New research has revealed that UK council pensions are investing around £10 billion in fossil fuel companies like BP and Shell. Despite 75% of councils including yourselves declaring a climate emergency, less than 5% have taken the significant step of withdrawing their investments in companies that are planning for catastrophic global warming of 3-5°C or more.

As a councillor, you have significant influence over the investment decisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The choice is clear: we can choose to stick to old systems of investment that drive the profits of destructive businesses and keep accelerating the climate crisis, or we can invest local money in ways that ensure local workers not only have a pension for their retirement, but also a future worth retiring into.

Further, in the face of extraordinary economic challenges ahead, we need to reset and create a new economy that places the health of us all above the wealth of a few. Local councils can play a part in this by mobilising the money they move out of fossil fuels into socially useful investments in the local economy.

As your constituent I would like to ask you the following questions:

1. Do you agree that the council should divest its pension fund from fossil fuels?

2. What steps is the council taking to end fossil fuel investments and invest in a green and fair local recovery?

3. What steps will you take personally to ensure this issue is on the agenda of the Council’s Pension Fund Committee?

You can find all the latest information on local government pension investments in the fossil fuel industry here: www.divest.org.uk/councils.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I hope that you're able to use your position to promote tangible action that withdraws our community’s support for the fossil fuel industry and safeguards the future pensions of local government workers.

Yours sincerely,

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