

[insert recipient address]

[insert sender address]

[insert date]

Dear [Minister],

I am aware that the provision of electricity for the rural poor is a high priority for the government. I support this policy wholeheartedly, and in order to assist its rapid execution, would like to share some of the insights gained during my recent discussions with other parliamentarians working on this issue across the region.

Specifically, I am interested in exploring how our country might benefit from the promotion of policies to support the development of alternative models of rural electrification. We need to move beyond the previous assumption that the best chance for rural areas to gain access to modern forms of energy is to wait for connection to the national electricity grid. Interim solutions that link locally-available power-sources such as small-scale hydro, wind, solar and biomass into village-level mini-grids have become increasingly viable in recent years, and the experience of countries such as Nepal and Kenya bears out the efficiency of such an approach. Furthermore, the alarming acceleration of climate change makes it all the more urgent that we rapidly develop our ability to draw on such energy sources. [Additionally, the power shortages experienced in recent years force us to reconsider the wisdom of putting ever-greater pressure on scarce resources by adding more grid connections].

I believe that we need to move towards an electrification model that provides a genuine choice between i) connection to the national grid, ii) village-level mini-grids and iii) standalone renewables installations – depending on local needs and circumstances. I would therefore be grateful if you would inform me of any plans the government has to examine the legislative and regulatory framework for energy provision in this country in order to support such a model. If there are as yet no plans to facilitate the growth of village-level electrification solutions, would you be willing to engage in a consultation to examine the potential for such solutions in [this country]? I am able to provide useful resources to assist this process.

I look forward to a constructive and fruitful dialogue.

Yours faithfully,