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Dear Colleagues

Seeking nomination for the National Policy Forum (South West)

This summer we will be voting to decide who represents members in our region on the National Policy Forum. I am writing to seek your constituency's nomination. The closing date for nominations to be received is in June 2018, nomination forms and details of the process were sent to CLP secretaries with the annual conference pack.

About the National Policy Forum

The Forum was set up in 1997, ostensibly to give ordinary members more involvement in the policy making process of the Labour Party. Previously involvement had largely been confined to motions to annual conference. In my experience this had meant a last minute scramble by the CLP to sift through hundreds of motions and decide which ones we wanted to mandate our delegate (we only ever had one) to support. The Forum idea promised much but as time went disillusionment set in and it felt like a somewhat fake democracy. Many think that we should go back to the old system, but I think the Forum is a way to keep things moving throughout the year. The 2017 Manifesto gives us a great set of policies on which to work.

About me

I am a retired software engineer with a degree in economics which prompted me to join the Labour Party in the 1980s when we were in the throes of Thatcherism. I was CLP secretary for 20 years until recently, am still secretary of the Labour Land Campaign and Labour CND, chair of my Unite Retired Members Branch, an executive officer of the International Union for Land Value Tax and the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy.

Why I would like to be your representative

I would particularly like to support John McDonnell on the Economy Business and Trade Commission. I have a long association with the Labour Land Campaign which advocates land value tax. It was the main economic policy of the Labour Representation Committee, the original name of the Labour Party. It is now back on the agenda. But I am interested in all aspects of government and always willing to learn of new ideas. I have had published many articles and letters, and given talks, not all on land value tax.

What you can expect from me

It is the duty of your representative to ensure that submissions you make are fairly assessed. I would like to see a dialogue between representatives and CLPs, individual members even, on some issues raised. Although the Forum does not seem to meet that frequently I am sure that there will be plenty of work to do.

Yours, Carol