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Offsetting pollution

Sir - Regarding the article "Let the trains help lift the big black clouds of pollution" (Opinion, December 13), the golden age of the train ended 80 years ago with the coming of the Ford Model T.

Today, the aim should be to reduce public expenditure on transport and lower costs to the whole economy. One way would be to close down the remaining 1,300 miles of loss-making rural lines (£300 million subsidy per annum) and turn them into roads or busways.

It's pointless to **rail** against the car. It has enormous advantages in cost, convenience and flexibility. Far better to accommodate its growing popularity through road-pricing, to reduce congestion and cleaner technology to offset pollution.

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