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Dear Member of Parliament,

The UK is at a major crossroads as we await your decision on the next Prime Minister. Business as usual on energy policy will not come close to meeting the challenge ahead. A fundamental reset is required.

This is not a time for pulling punches. For decades as a country, governments of all parties have failed to prioritise homegrown production, energy security, and industrial resilience. In an increasingly unstable world, these must be central to any responsible government's mission. The UK remains exposed – importing over 40% of the energy it needs, while leaving our own domestic resources in the ground.

The continued expansion of renewables is welcome and necessary. But with oil and gas still supplying around 75% of our energy, it makes little sense to rely on imports rather than prioritising our own resources in the North Sea. We are not calling for increased consumption of oil and gas but for as much of the oil and gas we consume to be produced here at home, reducing global emissions given the lower carbon intensity of UK oil and gas production compared to imports.

Today, government policy leaves us importing diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude oil, while refusing to prioritise our own oil and gas production over imports. Imagine how that feels to those working in the North Sea—and to the communities that depend on those jobs.

Over the past 50 years, we have seen the erosion of British industry alongside a growing dependence on imported oil and gas—effectively offshoring our emissions instead of genuinely addressing the climate challenge. True climate leadership means demonstrating that decarbonisation can go hand in hand with economic growth and industrial strength, and net zero can be a driver of growth and industrial revitalisation. Yet for many communities, we have instead seen a second wave of deindustrialisation—a painful echo of the disruption and loss experienced in the 1980s.

We are seeing an accelerated decline in production from the North Sea, driven by policy choices rather than geology. What happens offshore ripples through our industrial base – we have already seen a 40% fall in UK chemicals production and the closure of two of our six remaining refineries. This deindustrialisation has real-world consequences for communities across the UK.

Domestic oil and gas production supports thousands of jobs, billions of pounds of value in our economy, the supply chain we need for the expansion of renewables, and it comes with a lower carbon footprint than imports. Importantly, the sector also delivers significant production-related taxes that give the Chancellor choices.

It is increasingly clear that the UK is an outlier amongst its peers. In Norway, the centre-left Labour government issued 57 new oil and gas licences in January this year, with 70 offshore blocks up for auction later this year. In Canada, Prime Minister Carney has approved new pipelines and heralded the contribution that the country's oil and gas sector can make to adding capacity to global markets. And in Australia, Prime Minister Albanese's Labor government has pressed ahead with boosting domestic gas production and stressed the importance of energy security.

We believe strongly that the UK should stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends in countries like Norway, Canada, and Australia – all environmentally responsible actors, but fully aware of the importance of domestic energy production for building industrial resilience and energy security. As you embark on deciding your new leader and future direction for the party and the country, we urge you to seize the opportunity to bring the UK into alignment with similar like-minded countries.

This is about policy change. We need to accelerate the introduction of the Oil and Gas Price Mechanism (OGPM) to replace the Energy Profits Levy (EPL) to ensure we tax windfalls while maintaining investment. We also need a functioning regulatory regime that enables critical new projects such as Rosebank and Jackdaw to proceed in a timely fashion. These policy changes will unlock more than £13bn of additional tax revenues over the next decade which can be used to tackle key challenges such as eliminating fuel poverty, as well as protecting the country's industrial base.

But this is about more than policy. Language matters.

The debate around oil and gas has become too toxic, too polarised. It is wrong to divide our workforce into 'clean' and 'dirty' labour, into good jobs and bad jobs. That kind of dismissive language helps no one. This is not an argument for the status quo. We share the goal of net zero—but the reality is we need all energies on that path.

This is the moment for a reset—one where government adjusts not just its policies, but its language, and shows it understands and values the people who power this country.

Our energy policy should champion renewables, support nuclear, and also back domestic oil and gas production—building a system that is secure, balanced, rooted in the UK's own strengths, and that backs the communities whose jobs and futures depend on it.

Back a modern industrial Britain, secured by homegrown energy.

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