

7 July 2021

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London, SW1P 4DR
e-mail: transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref: The Proposed Northumberland Line Order

I am writing on behalf of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, the UK's leading technology innovation and research centre for offshore renewable energy. Our National Renewable Energy Centre, located in Blyth, hosts the world's largest and most comprehensive suite of wind turbine test facilities. We have particular expertise in Offshore Wind, which is set for a period of significant global industrialisation, bringing with it huge technological development. Our mission is to create UK economic growth from this opportunity.

ORE Catapult fully supports the proposed Northumberland Line Order. The improved connectivity provided by the Northumberland Line will bring social and economic benefits to businesses, commuters, residents and visitors both in Northumberland and the wider region. It will also improve our links with the Universities, enabling us to develop world leading expertise in low carbon technology. As such the scheme will provide an incentive for potential employers to relocate to and invest in the area and will support the delivery of significant growth in sectors such as renewable energy..

The proposed Northumberland Line Order is vital to secure the delivery of the scheme and we hope the Secretary of State will make the Order to enable the scheme to go ahead as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Tony Quinn
Test & Validation Director