

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
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Dear Sir/Madam

The Proposed Northumberland Line Order

I am writing to express support for the application by Northumberland County Council for the above-mentioned Order. The history of the Northumberland area economy was predominantly supported by the coal mining industry and subsidiary industries linked with the production of coal. As time has moved on and the proud history of coal mining has been put on the archive shelves the Northumberland area workforce have retrained and diversified in to different areas of employment only to find that the small amount of employment available has quickly dried up. There are little to no major employers in the Northumberland area that can accommodate the numbers of varied skills of the Northumberland people out of work. Due to the extended period of unemployment in the area the potential workforce have limited funds to afford to travel any extended distance to gain employment due to the very limited links available to other areas and also the cost of this travel.

The opening of the Northumberland Line is a double barrel life line to the areas linked with this scheme. One, the ability of people seeking employment would have a quick and cost effective means of travel to Newcastle which has a much larger employment base and also travel links to further reaching areas of the North East. Two, opening links for prospective employers to expand or relocate in to the Northumberland area. If these two points can be satisfied then the finances of the people in Northumberland will improve which will in turn attract the eyes of the retail sector and reinvigorate the building of homes and retail outlets. Both of these will bring employment to the local areas and also people to the area with the knowledge that they can commute from the beautiful rural areas of Northumberland to the larger inner city employment.

The opening of the Northumberland Line will also have a direct impact on the environment by reducing congestion on the roads which will improve air quality and reduce the carbon footprint of all the areas involved. These are just a few examples of how vital this rail link is to the towns and people of Northumberland and how the introduction of this link will be a catalyst of how quickly these areas can rejuvenate themselves in to a more prosperous, healthier and happier place to live.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr. Barry Malecki



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