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: <u>transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk</u>

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.

In particular, the line will deliver the following significant benefits:

- significantly improve connectivity between areas of under employment and growing labour market areas
- Assist with the regeneration of Ashington town centre
- Support inward investment (especially in the growing renewables sector)
- Relieve pressure on the road network
- Improve strategic transport infrastructure to benefit access to education facilities, boost tourism and improve labour market flexibility in an area currently underserved by reliable public transport networks

Yours faithfully,

Robin Earl

Chief Operating Officer ADVANCE NORTHUMBERLAND LIMITED (The regeneration and economic development company for Northumberland).

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