Conservative MPs Houses of Parliament Westminster SW1A OAA

12 July 2022

Subject: UK business community calls for the continued support and implementation of the Government's net zero and nature commitments, ahead of the upcoming Conservative leadership contest

Dear Conservative MPs,

The UK's business community is committed to addressing climate change and nature degradation.

As organisations representing thousands of those businesses we urge prospective candidates (and their supporters) for the Conservative Party Leadership to implement your party's manifesto commitments to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and restore nature within a generation.

We have seen first-hand investment in low carbon infrastructure and technologies delivers huge economic benefits. Supportive policy measures bring down the costs of clean technology, enabling businesses to capitalise on growing global markets. The gains are significant. From job creation, increased exports, and geographically dispersed growth to inward investment and improved air quality from clean energy, these are all important contributors to levelling up opportunity across the UK.

Since the 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution was published, over 56,000 jobs have been created in clean industries. Policies in the <u>Net Zero Strategy</u> could create another 440,000 well paid jobs by unlocking £90bn in private investment. An ambitious focus on delivery is essential to give business the confidence to invest.

In today's challenging context, an accelerated rollout of low cost, clean energy, energy efficiency, and industrial decarbonisation is vital to protect the UK from the volatile global fuel prices underpinning the ongoing energy crisis. This is an urgent priority as skyrocketing energy bills inflict considerable costs on businesses and push ever more households into fuel poverty.

We therefore urge you to seize this opportunity to accelerate a just transition towards a clean energy future and maintain the UK's leadership role in tackling the climate crisis.

We look forward to discussing the issues raised in this letter and to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

- 1. Stephen Woodford, Chief Executive, Advertising Association
- 2. Nick Molho, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group
- 3. Amanda Mackenzie OBE, Chief Executive, Business in the Community
- 4. Muniya Barua, Managing Director, Policy & Strategy, BusinessLDN
- 5. Dhara Vyas, Director of Advocacy & Programmes (Interim), Energy UK
- 6. Karen Betts OBE, Chief Executive Officer, Food and Drink Federation
- 7. Chris Southworth, Secretary-General, ICC United Kingdom

- 8. Adam Woodhall, Chief Executive, Lawyers for Net Zero
- 9. Dan McGrail, CEO, RenewableUK
- 10. Sandy Begbie CBE, CEO, Scottish Financial Enterprise
- 11. Jade Lewis, Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association
- 12. Jason Longhurst, Chair, UKBCSD
- 13. Eliot Whittington, Director, UK Corporate Leaders Group
- 14. Julie Hirigoyen, Chief Executive, UK Green Building Council
- 15. Steve Kenzie, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network UK
- 16. Dr. María Mendiluce, Chief Executive Officer, the We Mean Business Coalition

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