

Rt Hon George Osborne MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

4th November 2015

Dear Chancellor

The Conservative Government has made some positive strides to live up to its claim 'to be the party of social enterprises'. The Conservative Manifesto boldly states that it would 'give more people the power and support to...start their own social enterprise'.

Yet, radical and wholly unexpected changes to the Finance Bill will decimate the area that has shown by far the greatest potential for community share issues – community energy.

The proposal to deny community energy investors access to both Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) tax relief and Social Investment Tax Relief (SITR) is seen by many in the sector as the final nail in the coffin for future projects; especially given numerous recent assurances on admissibility and coming on top of proposals to significantly reduce Feed-in Tariff rates, remove access to pre-accreditation and remove Climate Change Levy exemptions.

Your previous support for community energy had resulted in real growth and confidence. The sector was at last taking off: with dozens of projects leveraging tens of millions of investment from local communities. Community projects are supported by ordinary people across the UK in a way that is almost unique.

Please reconsider the decision to exclude community energy from this essential support and help communities build a competitive, popular, clean energy system for the future.

Yours sincerely

Emma Bridge, Community Energy England

Nicholas Gubbins, Community Energy Scotland

Chris Blake, Community Energy Wales

Peter Holbrook, Social Enterprise UK

Ed Mayo, Co-operatives UK

Ramsay Dunning, Co-operative Energy



Caroline Julian, ResPublica



Dave Sowden, Sustainable Energy Association



Leo Murray, 10:10



Alex Germanis, Pure Leapfrog

Dr Nina Skorupska, Renewable Energy Association



Maf Smith, RenewableUK

Nick Clack, Campaign to Protect Rural England



Will Dawson, Forum for the Future

Rob Hopkins, Transition Network

Pete Capener, Bath & West Community Energy



Merlin Hyman, Regen SW



Lisa Ashford, Ethex

Jon Halle, Shareenergy



Mike Smyth, Energy4All

Jonathan Johns, Communities for Renewables

Philip Wolfe, Westmill Solar Cooperative



Andy Heald, Gen Community

Alistair Macpherson, Plymouth Energy Community



Ed Gommon, Liverpool Community Renewables

Lauri McCusker, The Fermanagh Trust

Dominic Comonte, Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network (WREN)

John Ingleby, Grand Union Community Energy



Hugh Cripps, Yorkshire Energy Partnership

James Mansfield, Energise Barnsley



Timothy Coombe, Brampton and Beyond Energy

Ian Jackson, Amber & Derwent Valley Community Energy



Kate Royston, Tamar Energy Community

Ian Bright, TRESOC

Jon Gething, Low Carbon Gordano



Chris Rowland, Ovesco & Community Energy South



John Childs, County Durham Community Energy



Susannah Wood, Solar Century

Anthony Woolhouse, West Solent Solar Co-operative

Chas Warlow, Teddington & Ham Hydro Cooperative



Jean Tinsley, Sheffield Renewables

Lesley Bennett, Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy



Kevin Frea, Halton Lune Hydro

Ant Flanagan, Gower Power Co-op



Andy O'Brien, Bristol Energy Cooperative

Giovanna Speciale, South East London Community Energy



Caryn Loftus, Esk Energy (Yorkshire)

Rob Pickering, West Cornwall Community Renewables

Andrea Simpson, Southern Staffordshire Community Energy & Chase Community Solar



Adrian Sargood, Two Valleys Community Energy

Phil Powell, Gwent Energy



Harfiyah Haleem, IFEEES Green Mosques Campaign

Alister Scott, Cuckmere Community Solar



Craig Woolf, Northern Community Power

Bob Sherman, Harbury Energy Initiative

Robert Van Maaren, UniSolar



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Paul McIntosh, Dorset Community Sustainable Energy Group



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Alan Jones, SE24

Katie Reville, PL:21



Celia Hawkesworth, Sustainable Kirtlington

Gill Fenna, MORE Renewables



Trevor Lancefield, EcoLocal

Simon Wragg, Sun Credit



Alison Brittle, Saddleworth Community Hydro

Garry Charnock, Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral Project



Agamemnon Otero, Repowering London

Rachael Hunter, Wey Valley Solar Schools Energy Co-operative

Elly Foster, Grannell Community Energy



Roger Matthews, Community Energy Warwickshire

Sarah Wright, Awel Deg/Cardigan Community Energy

Ian Thomas, Welcome to our woods project



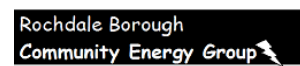
Ben Ferguson-Walker, Ynni Sir Gar / Carmarthenshire Energy

Tom Broughton, Solesco



Mary Ann Brocklesby, Awel Aman Tawe

Dan McCallum, Egni Solar PV Co-op



Andrew Jessop, Rochdale Borough Community Energy

Richard Brunning, Brendon Energy Co-op

David Harpur, Sustainable Crediton



John Hughes, St John's Sunshine

Ali Abbas, Greater Manchester Community Renewables



Gavin Fletcher, Harborough Energy

Andrew Fryer, Llangattock Green Valleys



Andy Rowland, ecodyfi

Robert Hall, Low Carbon Chilterns Co-operative

Adriano Figueiredo, Oxford North Community Renewables



Dr Barbara Hammond, The Low Carbon Hub

Finn Jensen, Pennine Community Power & Calderdale Community Energy



Jac Jones, Ynni Cymunedol Talybolion

Dr Tim Chatterton, Goring and Streatley Community Energy



Michael Phillips, Bro Dyfi Community Renewables



Ian Caldwell, Malvern Community Energy Co-operative

Tim Crisp, Sustainable Charlbury



Tom Latter, Transition Bro Gwaun

Paul Martin, Community Power Cornwall



Peter Williams, Development Trusts Association of Wales

Afsheen Kabir Rashid, Brixton Energy & Banister House Solar



Alban Thurston, Merton Power

Damon Hart-Davis, Kingston Community Energy

Partneriaeth Dolgellau, Peter Jackson



Alasdair Cameron, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Anne Schiffer, Friends of the Earth Scotland



Ed Matthew, Transform UK

Josh Roberts, ClieEarth

Richard Hebditch, National Trust



National Trust

Paul Monaghan, Up the Ethics

Claire Humphreys, Naturesave Policies Ltd



Anna Harnmeijer, Scene

Chris Church, Climate Action England



Simon Brammer, Ashden