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, Sharenergy
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, IFEES Green Mosques Campaign
Alister Scott, Cuckmere Community Solar
Craig Woolf, Northern Community Power
Bob Sherman, Harbury Energy Initiative
Robert Van Maaren, UniSolar
Isobel Annan, Solar SOAS
Paul McIntosh, Dorset Community Sustainable Energy Group
Ollie Pendred, Barcombe Energy Group
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 Fiqueiredo, 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 Chatteron, 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, ClietEarth
Richard Hebditch, National Trust
Paul Monaghan, Up the Ethics
Claire Humphreys, Naturesave Policies Ltd
Anna Harnmeijer, Scene
Chris Church, Climate Action England
Simon Brammer, Ashden