

9th December 2011

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

Dear Mr Osborne,

In your Autumn Statement you asserted that environmental regulation is a burden and cost on British business. However we believe that consistent and well-targeted environmental regulation is an effective means of helping businesses in Britain to find energy efficiencies and cost reductions; to develop the potential for leading in skills and expertise with greater export capacity; and to improve our energy security in a highly cost-effective manner. Such policies have been amply proven to be effective by economies like those of Germany and Switzerland, which have weathered the current crisis well.

We are deeply concerned, that in the face of legal commitments to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and to reduce them to 20% of 1990 levels by 2050, the construction and property industries will be actively discouraged by several Government announcements from investing in the skills and capacity to deliver low carbon measures and technologies. Recent announcements include:

- The removal of recycling of Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) payments for energy efficiency projects and the conversion of the CRC into a simple revenue raising tax in the 2011 Budget
- The decision not to include provision for Display Energy Certificates in the Energy Act 2011
- The abrupt changes to FITs payments in June and then December 2011
- The removal of incentives to invest in energy saving measures for energy-intensive manufacturing business in the 2011 Autumn Statement.
- The reduction in ambition for emission cuts and the slowing of the pace of change to that of the rest of Europe

Such announcements have not only directly damaged businesses gearing up to deliver a low-carbon built environment, as is witnessed by the potential loss of 4,500 jobs at Carillion, but, critically, have jeopardised confidence in the robustness and longevity of other Government carbon reduction programmes.

We call upon the Government to demonstrate its genuine commitment to deliver a low carbon economy by ensuring that all parts of Government deliver consistent, credible, and well-integrated policies that show its leadership in making that aim a practical reality.

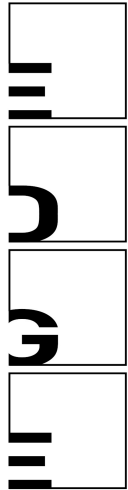
Yours sincerely

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