

Lesley Griffiths
Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Rural Affairs
Welsh Government
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

6 December 2016

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

As representatives of the onshore wind industry working in Wales, we, the undersigned, welcome today's energy statement, and in particular the move towards targets for renewable energy deployment. Welsh Government plays a pivotal role in enabling the development of renewable energy projects and supporting infrastructure. A strong partnership between Government and Industry is essential to help maximise the benefits of those developments to the communities and businesses of Wales.

We would like to contribute to the discussion on energy by setting out the crucial role played by onshore wind in the energy mix of Wales.

Onshore wind energy has established itself as a mature, popular, clean and efficient technology. It is now the UK's largest source of renewable energy generation, and by 2020 will be the cheapest way to generate electricity, helping to minimise the cost of electricity to householders and industrial users alike.

Onshore wind farms provide energy security, reduce CO₂ emissions and contribute to the local and national economy. Research published by RenewableUK and partly funded by Welsh Government demonstrates that the economic opportunities to Wales from onshore wind are huge.

The construction and ongoing maintenance of 2 GW of onshore wind would create more than 1,600 full time jobs, and result in millions of pounds of local spend. With up to ten times as many jobs as fossil fuel per unit of electricity produced, and with significant employment in rural areas, the sector is inherently well-placed to spread the benefits of skilled employment across Wales.

Wales benefits from inward investment throughout the entire project lifecycle, with more than 70% of spend during planning and development, over a third of all construction spend and more than three quarters of operation and maintenance spend occurring in Wales – directly benefiting Welsh businesses.

A strong wind industry is an important component of the overall energy and environment sector, which employs more people than any other Priority Sector, and more than the combined workforces of the ICT, creative, and food and farming sectors.

In welcoming today's energy statement, which is another step in the right direction for Wales' energy sector, we must also highlight the need for a mechanism to allow onshore wind to compete on even terms with other energy technologies. We commend the Welsh Government for making this case, and we look forward to seeing further dialogue with the UK Government to allow the lowest-cost, low-carbon technology to be deployed in Wales.

Our industry recognises the support of the Welsh Government, and we continue to work to increase our already-strong relationships with the people and communities that we serve. The success of the onshore wind sector increases the prosperity of communities and businesses the length and breadth of Wales, and we look forward to a continued and strengthening partnership with Welsh Government in order to help deliver these benefits.

Yours sincerely,

Anna McMorris, Wales Director, Invicta Public Affairs
Nicola McGlynn, Wind Energy Director, Mistras Group Limited
Tanya Davies, Head of Onshore Development, Innogy Renewables UK
David Clubb, Director, RenewableUK Cymru
Andrew Eilbeck, Director for Wales, Raymond Brown Construction
Guy Mortimor, Head of Onshore Development UK, Vattenfall
Matt Partridge, Development Director, REG Power Management
Phil Horton, Managing Director, Dulas
Chris Jackson, Senior Development Principal, RES
John Woodruff, Head of Projects, Natural Power

