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Dear Sirs

East Anglia One North Offshore Windfarm (EA1) and East Anglia Two North Offshore Windfarm (EA2) – Application for Development Consent Order

We refer to our letter to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government of 21 November 2019, whereby we requested that the Secretary of State exercised his discretion and decline to accept the applications for development consent orders pending the outcome of the anticipated review by the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy in connection with the potential for an off-shore ringmain. We note that since that letter, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government has accepted both applications as per the decision letter of 22 November 2019.

Since the decision to accept the applications, we have received the enclosed letter from Mr Gareth Leigh, Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning at the department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. Mr Leigh has suggested that the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy did not agree to conduct a review into the potential for an offshore ring main. Mr Leigh refers to a letter of 25 November 2019 to Mr George Freeman whereby the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy apparently clarified for the record that she did not commit to a formal review. We have requested to see a copy of that letter from Mr Leigh and we await disclosure of the same.

We consider this turn of events to be odd, not least because of the time that elapsed between Mr Freeman's letter of 28 October 2019, and the Secretary of State's clarification of 25th November 2019, which was no doubt prompted by our letter of 21 November 2019. Mr George Freeman's record of events relating to the meeting with the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (as set out in his letter of 28th October 2019) is completely at odds with the Secretary of State's "clarification" (as apparently recorded in her letter of 25 November 2019). There will no doubt be recorded minutes of the meeting, which will presumably be capable of being corroborated by those in attendance.

However, we are conscious that we are now in a pre-election period, and as such it is customary for the Government and the Civil Service to observe discretion in announcing initiatives that are new or of a long-term character. Given the turn of events described above, we consider that it is vital that no further steps be taken in progressing the DCO applications until the period of sensitivity is over and the above matter is clarified. As such we would request that the Secretary of State for Communities Housing and Local Government takes no steps to set up a preliminary

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meeting until such time as the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy is in a position to clarify whether she intends to conduct a review into the possibility of an off shore ring main (whether that be a formal or informal review), and the timeline and terms of reference of such a review if one is to occur. You will appreciate that the close of the preliminary meeting sets in train a strict statutory timetable for the DCO applications to be examined and a decision taken. It is therefore vital that this timetable does not commence until the matters mentioned above are resolved.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

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Cc. The Rt Hon George Freeman MP, the Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP, the Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Planning Inspectorate, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government