

To: The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero,

c/o: Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team, DESNZ

Dear Secretary of State,

SEA LINK – THERE’S A CHEAPER, FASTER ALTERNATIVE

I am writing to you regarding your letter of 28 August about the proposed Sea Link project. I am not a technical expert, but like many people in our community, I am deeply concerned about what this project means for our local area and our family energy bills.

Recent reports from Ofgem and the National Audit Office have raised serious red flags about the cost and value of this project. During the original planning process, National Grid told us Sea Link would cost around £1.1 billion. Now, Ofgem estimates the actual cost is closer to £3.2 billion—three times higher than what local communities were initially led to believe.

With household bills already so high, it feels wrong to push ahead with a £3.2 billion megaproject when the original reasons for it have changed, and serious technical issues remain unresolved.

Most importantly, local campaign groups like Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) have pointed out that there is a much simpler, faster alternative: upgrading and re-wiring the existing pylon lines in Suffolk and Kent. This alternative is estimated to cost under £300 million—saving energy bill payers nearly £3 billion while avoiding massive disruption, environmental damage, and years of building work in our countryside with its attendance impact on local businesses involved in tourism as well.

As someone keeping a close eye on household expenses, I support clean energy, but it shouldn't come at any cost when there is a smarter option sitting right in front of us.

Before committing billions of pounds of bill-payers' money, I urge the Government to pause and independently review the SEAS alternative. If we can achieve the same goal faster and for a fraction of the price, surely that is the sensible choice for families and local communities.

Yours sincerely,

Laurelie Walter

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