David Wimble
Cabinet Member for Economic Development
And Special Projects
KCC Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ

Minister of State for Energy
Miatta Fahnbulleh
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

24th September 2026

Dear Minister,

Re: Sea Link Project - Alternative Landfall at the Port of Dover

I am writing to express Kent County Council's concerns regarding the current proposal for the Sea Link project to make landfall at Minster Marshes on the Isle of Thanet. While we support the UK's need for strategic energy infrastructure, we believe there is a strong case for reconsidering the route and bringing the connection ashore at the Port of Dover instead.

The Minster Marshes proposal would result in significant disruption to a sensitive rural landscape, affecting agricultural land, important habitats, and local communities. Construction activity associated with the project would have a considerable impact on residents and businesses, while also placing additional pressure on local roads and infrastructure.

By contrast, the Port of Dover is an established strategic infrastructure hub, already accommodating major transport and industrial operations. Locating the connection within an area characterised by existing infrastructure would minimise impacts on undeveloped countryside and reduce the need for large-scale works in environmentally sensitive areas.

There is also a growing concern among residents that Thanet is being asked to accommodate a disproportionate amount of nationally significant energy infrastructure. The cumulative impact of existing and proposed projects is substantial and should be given greater consideration when assessing the most appropriate location for new developments.

A Dover landfall would offer a more sustainable and balanced solution, make use of an existing infrastructure corridor while reducing environmental impacts, limiting disruption to communities and protecting valuable agricultural and ecological assets.

The decision on Sea Link will have consequences for Kent's communities, environment, and economy for generations. It is therefore essential that all realistic alternatives are fully evaluated before irreversible commitments are made. Given the significant environmental harm, loss of productive agricultural land and cumulative impacts associated with the Minster Marshes proposal, we do not believe the case for that route has been sufficiently justified. The Port of Dover offers a credible and potentially less damaging alternative that merits far greater consideration. I therefore urge the Government to pause any progression towards a Minster Marshes landfall until a comprehensive and transparent assessment of the Dover option has been undertaken. Kent's residents deserve confidence that the chosen route represents not merely an acceptable option, but the best option available.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

David Wimble
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Special Projects

Kent County Council