Please send this letter via email to: ps.decc.sos@decc.gsi.gov.uk; biomass@decc.gsi.gov.uk; ps.john.hayes@decc.gsi.gov.uk

**Subject Title:** Please Back Biomass as a cornerstone of Britain’s economic and energy future

Dear Minister,

The UK urgently needs jobs, growth, and energy security. Upgraded energy infrastructure is essential to keeping the lights on and lowering greenhouse gas emissions; but it is also one of the strongest foundations for short and long term growth, business competitiveness and a rebalanced economy.

According to the CBI, the green economy has made up a third of all UK growth through the economic crisis. Already contributing over a billion pounds and supporting tens of thousands of UK jobs (including a supply chain across transport, farming, construction, engineering and environmental services), the expanding bioenergy industry could be a cornerstone of Britain’s economic and energy future.

Bioenergy is the largest contributor to our renewable electricity, and has the potential to supply 11% of UK primary energy demand by 2020. Biomass power and CHP provides predictable on-demand generation, complementing the growth of other renewables, such as wind and solar. As a mature technology, it is also both cost-effective and rapidly deployable. With Ofgem predicting a capacity crunch of 4% as early as 2015, flexible, reliable capacity from diverse sources of biomass fuel supply could make a vital contribution to UK energy security and economic competitiveness.

The Government currently advocates all forms of biomass generation: from brand new dedicated projects offering decades of energy security and employment; to conversion and co-firing of existing coal stations making cost-efficient use of existing infrastructure and ensuring vital capacity remains on the UK grid in the next few years when it will be badly needed. Combusting biomass to produce heat and power also delivers an energy conversion upwards of 75% making CHP a highly efficient use of biomass resources, as well as an excellent way to decarbonise industry.

The biomass sector is geared up and shovel ready to deliver new investment, infrastructure and energy security. However, current policy and political uncertainty is damaging investor confidence. Bold, ambitious action is needed, but Government is failing to take the long-term decisions needed to get these projects up and running. Even after the conclusion of the lengthy Renewables Obligation Banding Review, there have been (and are still) several open consultations on a number of renewable technologies including biomass. Rather than ‘open for business’, investors are concerned the Government is focused on the short term and unwilling to provide the certainty they need to push the button on decades worth of investment in the UK economy.

I am writing to you to show my support for the UK biomass industry and to call on Government to be bold, end the delays, and give investors the certainty they need to continue to Back Biomass.

Yours sincerely,