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Chamber of
Commerce**

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Subject: North Sea Facts – supporting a more informed debate on the UK's energy future

Dear Member of Parliament,

The debate about the future of the North Sea has become one of the most important economic, environmental and energy security discussions facing the UK.

Unfortunately, it has also become one of the most polarised.

Too often, complex issues are reduced to slogans, while important facts about energy demand, emissions, jobs, tax revenues and security of supply are overlooked. We believe Parliament deserves better.

That is why Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce has launched NorthSeaFacts.co.uk - a new online resource bringing together publicly available evidence from government, independent bodies and recognised research organisations to help inform a more balanced debate about the role of the UK Continental Shelf in Britain's future energy system.

The website does not argue against the energy transition. On the contrary, we recognise that the UK is on a long-term journey towards net zero and that reducing demand for fossil fuels must remain the ultimate objective. However, that transition will take decades, and every credible forecast shows that Britain will continue to require significant quantities of oil and gas throughout that period.

The question facing policymakers is therefore not whether the UK will continue to consume oil and gas, but where that energy should come from.

Today, production from the UK Continental Shelf declines by around 10% each year. In the absence of replacement investment, almost all of that lost production is substituted by imports. In many cases those imports travel thousands of miles, often have a significantly higher production emissions footprint than UK production and deliver fewer economic benefits to British workers, businesses and taxpayers. In a time of geopolitical uncertainty, they are also less secure.

We believe there is a compelling case for replacing imports with cleaner, responsibly produced domestic oil and gas wherever possible while demand remains.

North Sea Facts has been created to support that conversation. We hope it becomes a useful resource for Members of Parliament, researchers, journalists and anyone seeking evidence rather than rhetoric.

As Parliament considers the future of the basin, we would encourage you to support two practical measures that can help manage decline responsibly while protecting jobs, investment and energy security.



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Firstly, we urge the Government to implement the Offshore Gas Revenue Levy (OGRL) without delay, honouring the commitment made by the Chancellor earlier this year to replace the current Energy Profits Levy with a stable, long-term fiscal framework. Investment decisions worth billions of pounds cannot be deferred indefinitely. Industry needs certainty now.

Secondly, we ask that the Government establishes a regulatory system capable of delivering timely and predictable consenting decisions. Production from the UK Continental Shelf is already declining rapidly. Lengthy regulatory delays simply accelerate that decline and increase Britain's dependence on imported energy without reducing demand.

Supporting domestic production while demand remains is not inconsistent with net zero. It is about ensuring that the energy Britain continues to require is produced with lower emissions, higher environmental standards and greater economic benefit for the United Kingdom.

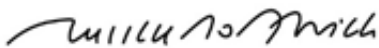
We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to explore North Sea Facts and consider the evidence presented.

The website can be found at:

www.northseafacts.co.uk

We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you or provide any further evidence that may assist your work in Parliament

Yours sincerely



Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive