

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

2 December 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

RENEWABLE ENERGY – THE ROUTE TO ENERGY SECURITY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND NET ZERO

We are writing today as leaders of businesses representing over 50% of the UK's food retail sector and more than 300 community energy businesses all over the UK on the need for the Government to work with us so that unlocking additional renewable energy generation capacity becomes a more central priority in addressing the challenges we currently face.

It is clear to us all when we look at energy security, opportunities for economic prosperity and moving towards the Government's 2050 Net Zero target that growing the UK's renewable energy capacity must be a very significant part of the answer for our country.

You will know that businesses like ours are continuing to invest in renewable energy sources as we have for many years. We will continue to do so. However, the report from Cornwall Insight which we enclose here finds that grid decarbonisation isn't going fast enough. Current projections suggest the grid will only be at 58% renewable generation by 2030.

We believe this is a missed economic, security and environmental opportunity. The report from Cornwall Insight also demonstrates very clearly the pivotal role Governments have played over the last thirty years in providing the conditions which have unlocked capital investment and provided businesses the confidence to invest in energy from renewable sources.

We ask you today to work with us to help create a framework for the future so together we can seize the opportunities that renewable energy offers, and specifically call for:

- fiscal and financial action to encourage and incentivise investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- reforms to planning regimes so renewable energy schemes can rapidly move from concept to operation;
- support for community energy organisations to develop projects which involve the wider public in the Net Zero transition; and
- changes to the way the energy market operates to ensure a fair price for green energy for households and industry.

With renewable energy now cheaper than the alternative, quicker to source and better for the environment, there's every reason to prioritise greater support for greening the grid. We would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how together we can seize the opportunities ahead of us.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Murphy
Group Chief Executive
Tesco



Shirine Khoury-Haq
Chief Executive Officer
The Co-operative Group



David Potts
Chief Executive
Morrisons



Stuart Machin
Chief Executive Officer
Marks and Spencer



Debbie Robinson
Chief Executive
Central Co-op



Phil Ponsonby
Group Chief Executive
Midcounties Co-operative



Duncan Law
Acting Co-Chief Executive
Community Energy England