



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Minister of State
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Ref: AB24347

13 June 2022

Dear Minister,

Re: East Anglia Green Energy Enablement Project

I am writing on behalf of several constituents who recently contacted me regarding the proposed construction and operation of a new 400 kV electricity transmission line which, in my constituency's case, mostly comprises overhead lines and pylons.

Chiefly, my constituents are concerned that the proposals are not at a formative stage and there is an absence of alternative options for the proposed route through my constituency of Brentwood and Ongar.

Many constituents have noted that underground cabling has been proposed through the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and feel the countryside in our constituency is being disregarded and undervalued by National Grid's current proposals. Some constituents have even queried why the transmission line cannot be located offshore.

As stated in the joint letter written by James Cartlidge MP and signed by several of my neighbouring MPs, which I endorse, the consultation does not mention the viable undersea cable route – 'Sea Link 2' (SCD2) – or explain why this option was not chosen. I am a supporter of the OffSET proposals.

I, along with many of my constituents, are concerned that the current proposals will lead to unnecessary destruction of beautiful Essex countryside; largely negative affects on property and land values; untold misery to local residents; and, discourage visitors to the constituency.

I have been encouraging my constituents to engage with the public consultation which, as you will no doubt be aware, closes on 16 June 2022. At the very least, in agreement with my fellow colleagues, I ask that the consultation be expanded to permit the public to express their views on the wider choice of overland vs undersea.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex".

Alex Burghart MP
Brentwood and Ongar