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Rt Hon Rishu Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

7 October 2020

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

As an island, the UK has a long, proud history of being a world-leading maritime nation. Maritime is a vital part of our heritage and of our modern economy – supporting jobs, driving innovation, and enabling trade. As the elected representatives and leaders of coastal communities across the UK, we are writing to you to make sure the voices of these communities are heard, and to urge you to ensure that the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review provides much-needed support for the maritime industry.

This is particularly important considering that analysis suggests coastal and ex-industrial towns are most economically at risk from the COVID-19 pandemic. The maritime sector is uniquely positioned to drive new growth opportunities to help these regional economies recover.

A government investment of £1bn to kick-start the UK's maritime decarbonisation programme would directly create 15,200 jobs and a further 58,400 jobs throughout the supply chain. Not only is maritime decarbonisation essential to meeting the legislative target of net zero emissions by 2050, but the right level of investment now will position the UK as the world-leader in this area.

The maritime sector is the fundamental enabler of British global trade and exports its own innovative products and services. With cutting-edge technology, high-quality design and manufacturing, unparalleled expertise in services and major investment opportunities, the UK is the natural home for global maritime business.

Maritime contributes £46.1bn to the UK economy and supports 1 million jobs. It is responsible for keeping the country supplied - 95 percent of British imports and exports in goods are moved by sea, including 25 percent of the UK's energy supply and 48 percent of food supplies. Investment is essential for maintaining these resilient supply chains that every single person across the UK relies upon.

The sector also enables millions of people to enjoy the recreational benefits of the UK's coastal and inland waterways, and the maritime sector has made a significant contribution to the UK's COVID response, by keeping supply chains open, and ensuring access to vital resources across the country including food, fuel, and medicines.

Globally, the maritime sector will double to \$3trn by 2030, and the UK has a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of the growing market for decarbonising the maritime sector, and to export these technologies globally.

But without investment, this opportunity will be missed, and the UK will risk losing its position as a world-leader in maritime. Many other countries around the world are already acting to support the decarbonisation of their maritime industries, and the UK Government must do the same.

We hope that you use your forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review to set out a plan for supporting growth and creating jobs across the UK's maritime industry, and particularly in our coastal communities.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Peter Jackson  
Leader, Northumberland County Council

Councillor Gordon Hook  
Leader, Teignbridge District Council

Councillor Stephen McCabe  
Leader, Inverclyde Council

Councillor Tudor Evans  
Leader, Plymouth City Council

Councillor Seán D T Woodward  
Executive Leader, Fareham Borough Council

Councillor John Alexander  
Leader, Dundee City Council

Councillor Vikki Slade  
Leader, BCP Council

Councillor Simon Henig  
Leader, Durham County Council

Councillor Julian German  
Leader, Cornwall Council

Mayor Jamie Driscoll  
Mayor, North of Tyne Combined Authority

Councillor Margaret Davidson  
Leader, The Highland Council

Councillor Keith Mans  
Leader, Hampshire County Council

Councillor Altany Craik  
Convener – Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Committee, Fife Council

Councillor Christopher Hammond  
Leader, Southampton City Council

Mayor Steve Rotheram

Mayor, Liverpool City Region

Councillor Iain Malcolm  
Leader, South Tyneside Council

Councillor James Stockan  
Leader, Orkney Islands Council

Councillor Sarah Bütikofer  
Leader, North Norfolk District Council

Councillor Tony Buchanan  
Leader, East Renfrewshire Council

Councillor Rob Stewart  
Leader, City and County of Swansea Council

Councillor Philip Jackson  
Leader, North East Lincolnshire Council

Councillor Pat Hackett  
Leader, Wirral Council

Councillor Steven Coutts  
Leader, Shetland Islands Council

Councillor Stephen Brady  
Leader, Hull City Council

Councillor David Worden  
Leader, North Devon Council

Councillor Stewart Young  
Leader, Cumbria County Council

Mayor Norma Redfearn CBE  
Mayor, North Tyneside

Councillor Murray Lyle  
Leader, Perth & Kinross Council

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Leader, Portsmouth City Council

Councillor Emlyn Dole  
Leader, Carmarthenshire County Council

Councillor John Hart  
Leader, Devon County Council

Councillor Elaine Murray  
Leader, Dumfries and Galloway Council

Councillor Nick Forbes  
Leader, Newcastle City Council

Councillor Dr James Walsh  
Leader, Arun District Council

Councillor Rick Everitt  
Leader, Thanet District Council

Councillor Trevor Cummings  
Mayor, Ards and North Down Borough Council

Mayor Tim Bowles  
Mayor, West of England Combined Authority

Councillor Llinos Medi  
Leader, Ynys Môn Council

Councillor Sam Rowlands  
Leader, Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Douglas Lumsden  
Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council

Councillor Jenny Laing  
Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council

Councillor Paul Marshall  
Leader, West Sussex County Council

Councillor Robin Currie  
Leader, Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Phélim Mac Cafferty  
Leader, Brighton and Hove City Council

Alderman Frank McCoubrey  
Rt Hon Lord Mayor of Belfast

Councillor Mark Pritchard  
Chair of the Mersey Dee Alliance