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Dear Sir or Madam,

RED TAPE CHALLENGE – ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY THEMES

As you may be aware, the 'Red Tape Challenge' was launched in April to open up Government regulation to the scrutiny and challenge of the public, businesses and experts. The website is being used to gather innovative ideas on how the aims of our regulations can be fulfilled in the most successful and least burdensome ways. Ultimately, we hope to encourage greater personal responsibility and remove barriers to growth by freeing up businesses from red tape.

The Government is committed to being the greenest government ever. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and avoiding dangerous climate change is crucial to our long-term economic success and quality of life: there is no intention to reduce environmental protection or draw back from our climate change commitments. However, to support a sustainable green economy we have to make sure that our environmental, climate change and energy policies are being implemented in the most effective way possible, and our regulations are not strangling businesses and individuals with red tape.

In a rapidly changing world this will mean considering different ways of achieving our policy goals. Environmental, climate change and energy policies often aim to encourage people to act in certain ways – overly complex, burdensome regulation may not be the best way to do this. Instead, there is potential to explore how alternatives to regulation can help us achieve the same, or better, environmental outcomes. We've already made a start by working with businesses to produce industry-led codes of conduct, and increase transparency of environmental data so that the public can hold companies to account.

We want to use the Red Tape Challenge to hear your thoughts on how environmental, climate change and energy regulations are working in practice – what works well, as well as what does not – and whether there are alternative means of better achieving our policy goals. If you have particular thoughts, for example on how we could improve transparency of environmental/energy data, take innovative approaches to compliance of environmental/energy measures, or change default behaviour, please share them with us.

On the Red Tape Challenge website, regulations are divided into themes which feature on the front page for a 'spotlight' period of around 3 weeks. We would like to draw your attention to two of the themes: the 'Environment' theme which has been available for comment since the website's launch (due to the cross-cutting effects of environmental regulations) will be in the spotlight from 1-21 September 2011; and the 'Energy' theme, which is due to enter the spotlight on 25 November and will cover energy generation, supply, security and efficiency. During the spotlight periods, each theme will have a 'Sector Champion' to encourage the sector's stakeholders to engage in the exercise and challenge government to achieve our objectives in the most efficient way possible. The 'Environment' theme's champion will be Robert Hunt, Veolia Executive Director. The 'Energy' theme's champion will be James Smith, former chairman of Shell UK.

We are looking for all of our stakeholders – the public, businesses, local authorities, representative bodies and non-governmental organisations – to tell us how our policies are working in practice and what can be done to improve them. The more specific you can be the better – we are looking to make real difference to how our objectives are achieved.

Please do comment on the website <http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk> or send a submission to the Red Tape Challenge Team at redtapechallenge@bis.gsi.gov.uk.

Many thanks in anticipation of your help.



RT HON JIM PAICE MP



CHARLES HENDRY