Dear Sirs,

I write as a retired M.D. of some 30 years experience in the petrochemical industry in support of the halite energy group proposal. This proposal will once approved bring some 3000 much needed well paid work over the period. This together with apprenticeships and training will produce a dramatic effect on our unemployment totals now standing at 8.6%, together with infrastructure development much needed in our area.

We need as a country to develop and store gas to reduce the impact of insecure supply and to produce affordable energy. The creation of an energy industry locally will deliver the much needed benefits.

On the subject of safety, we have the finest regulatory and inspection regime in the world without which we would have no offshore industry with its benefits. We must not allow a very tiny vocal minority dictate to the majority and deprive us all of the benefits this project will have on our communities.

This is a once in a decade opportunity to create a local energy industry. Let us seize the opportunity for the benefit of our local communities and the country as a whole.

Yours sincerely

A. Marsh