Dear Mr Scott,

Halite Energy Group – Proposed Underground Gas Storage Project at Preesall, Lancashire

As a local business I am writing in support of the above project.

Lancashire, and in particular the Wyre Peninsula area of the county, continues to suffer from unemployment above the national average and I believe that an investment of this nature would have a significant impact on creating jobs for local people, which Halite has already made a commitment to.

Not only will the project create much-needed jobs for local unemployed people, there will be numerous opportunities for local businesses to benefit from the sourcing of goods and services that will be required for the project over its eight-year construction period. This will directly benefit local construction and building supplies companies, but will also provide a welcome boost for small businesses such as shops, pubs, cafes, B&Bs and hotels and restaurants.

Over the last three years Halite has gone to great lengths to consult with the local community to address their concerns. I believe that they have demonstrated that their project can be built safely with minimum impact on the environment.

Energy security is one of the greatest challenges facing our country. We are now a net importer of gas and our low levels of gas storage when compared to European counterparts are extremely worrying. More storage will, I hope, mean fewer price shocks for consumers and therefore greater price stability.

In January this year the High Court ruled in favour of Halite following a Judicial Review and I understand that DECC is now considering whether to appeal this decision or re-examine the application. I urge DECC to support this project on the grounds that it will benefit the local economy enormously, whilst helping to address the critical energy security challenges our country currently faces.

Yours sincerely

Mr Colin Ralfs

SILVER SERVICE