**EXAMPLE LETTER (NOT SSEN)**

Dear Andrew Bowie MP, (Minister of Energy Security and Net Zero), Mairi Gougeon MSP, (Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land and Islands), Dave Doogan MP, (Angus), Gillian Martin MSP, (Minister for Energy) and all Angus Councillors

I am opposed to the SSEN’s proposals for OHLs through the middle of Angus, especially near Aberlemno, Balbinny, Netherton and Forfar.

Whilst I recognise that the UK is working towards the net zero goal, it cannot be at the expense of the following:

* Impact on people – their mental health, worry, signals may be affected to machines such as kidney dialysis etc, 3 years of disruption whilst building is taking place. Children should not have the pylons and OHL near to the Aberlemno School – it has been shown that there is a high risk to children health.
* Impact on the wellbeing of the community – the community builds resilience to support others through crisis or change and giving a sense of security and safety. There is an increased risk of pollution, loss of homes if Compulsory Purchase is used with infrastructure decay and land degradation.
* Impact on homes – houses prices with no compensation for loss, pylons next to homes and limited choice of Mortgage Lenders (pylons must be a certain distance from houses and it is measured by the Companies).
* Impact on visual amenity – pylons will destroy views of the beautiful Angus Hills for everyone and will have a negative impact on businesses which advertise fantastic Scottish Views.
* Impact on prime agricultural land – Some of only 8-9% left in Scotland. Tattie and Rape Seed growing area.
* Impact on agriculture – spread of diseases such as Eelworms, Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) spread by vehicles and people, loss of prime farmland, disruption to planting crops and blocking Tractor GPS signals. There will be concrete and hardcore roads across the land which will take years to recover. Difficult to farm around the massive pylons and so the loss of land acreage will be significant. As GB is working towards food security, the farmers will not be able to grow the same amounts as before the pylons.
* Impact on the natural environment – views devastated by pylons, South Esk River is so close and as the fields already flood in winter, will create more floods than before.
* Impact on wildlife – Red Squirrels, Geese flightpath, Birds, Fish and water dependent animals.
* Impact on ecology (relationship between living organisms and environment) – destruction of dykes, hedges and trees which many different species live.
* Concerned about noise - additional traffic and pollution with large STGO lorries on small rural, singletrack roads which are narrow enough already and meeting a tractor and trailer, it can be impassable. State of the roads, potholes and destruction of verges, access to properties, additional vehicle movements in quiet hamlets, excessive noise from construction vehicles and constructing the pylons from numerous large pieces. Pylons will be built upon a concrete slab so an increase of dust which isn’t good for residents with medical problems such as Asthma and COPD, with a huge increase of concrete mixers.
* Inadequate public consultations – not everyone had notification or was able to attend “consultation” meetings (afternoon and early evening which is not great for working people and families), only small number of meetings in Angus, using old OS maps that don’t have all properties and sites of significant importance on them, booklets with pictures that were so small that proposed routes were difficult to read. The feedback form did not give any other options other than the 3 routes identified and the questions selected were all in SSEN’s favour.

I believe that SSEN has grossly underestimated the impact of this project and have mislead MPs, MSPs, Councillors and people, including myself, family, friends, landowners, farmers and every other group that will be directly affected. The new pylons and the OHL’s are being sneaked in under the upgrade of current pylons which has planning permission already but the new pylons and OHLs don’t yet.

Please consider the impact on the above issues when voting at the Council and Planning Meetings – please vote against this project by SSEN who intend to destroy our beautiful Angus.

Priority has been given to reducing costs over protecting communities, people, wildlife etc, to enable large profits for shareholders and stakeholders.

The power line should be placed underground or on the seabed so as not to destroy our heritage, families, work life, the scenery and views which we are well known for (impact on tourism).

Yours sincerely