To: Rt Hon Darren Jones MP Chief Secretary His Majesty's Treasury 1 Horse Guards Road Westminster London SW1A 2HQ

CC: Cabinet Office, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Ed Miliband

Dear Chief Secretary,

We urge the UK Government to fulfil its manifesto pledge to invest £13.2bn in the Warm Homes Plan and save families hundreds of pounds on their energy bills.

Exposure to high gas prices on the international market continues to hurt UK households, with high heating bills having a devastating impact on families. <u>6.5 million households</u> are still in fuel poverty and some families having to choose between heating and eating. Set within a broader cost of living crisis, the Warm Homes Plan can provide essential investment to lower bills and make homes warmer and healthier to live in.

The signatories to this letter represent independent consumer, social and environmental organisations and bodies. There is consensus among us that cutting the Warm Homes Plan budget would risk the UK Government missing statutory fuel poverty and climate targets, while curtailing a nationwide infrastructure project which is vital for delivering on economic growth.

So far, the UK Government has only committed to spending half of the previous government's <u>planned annual investment</u> on home upgrades. Continuing with this investment trajectory will risk missing the UK's obligations to end fuel poverty and keep millions of working households trapped on costly gas. It is notable that 82% of the 300 constituencies with the highest rates of fuel poverty have Labour MPs. Additionally, by cutting the Warm Homes Plan, the UK Government would be highly likely to overshoot the statutory carbon budget.

Instead, the UK Government should reaffirm its manifesto commitment to deliver the full Warm Homes Plan budget, which E3G analysis estimates will add 0.8% to the UK's GDP this parliament. For scale, London's £19bn Elizabeth Line <u>was estimated</u> to add 0.2% to annual GDP over 60 years. Therefore, investing in warm homes delivers similar added GDP growth per £ spent, but faster and with benefits distributed across the country. Simultaneously, it would reduce energy bills by £200 every year for 2.9 million households or 7 million people.

The undersigned urge the UK Government to fully fund the Warm Homes Plan, which would create economic opportunities across the country, while making a major contribution to tackling fuel poverty and reducing household energy bills this Parliament. This is the most productive and socially beneficial infrastructure investment this government can make and we ask you to honour the manifesto commitment.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director - Age UK Andy Manning, Head of Energy System Transformation, Citizens Advice Giles Hunt, Land and Estates Director - National Trust Muyiwa Oki, President, Royal Institute of British Architects Kate Norgrove, Executive Director Conservation, Advocacy and Policy - WWF-UK Stew Horne, Group Head of Sector Intelligence & External Relations - Energy Saving Trust Jonathan Blades, Head of Policy and External Affairs – Asthma and Lung UK Areeba Hamid, Co-Executive Director - Greenpeace UK Mike Childs, Head of Science, Policy & Research - Friends of the Earth James Taylor of Scope, Executive Director of Strategy – Scope Kate Henderson, Chief Executive - National Housing Federation Patrick Murray, Executive Director (Policy & External Relations), Northern Housing Consortium Jan Shortt, General Secretary - National Pensioner's Convention Joanna Elson (CBE), Chief Executive - Independent Age Ian Preston, Director of Development and External Affairs - Centre for Sustainable Energy Emily Thompson, Director of Fuel Poverty & Retrofit - Groundwork Justin Young, Chief Executive Officer - Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Nick Mabey, Chief Executive - E3G Madeleine Gabriel, Mission Director - Nesta Mathew Lawrence, Founder and Director, Common Wealth Danny Sriskandarajah, Chief Executive - New Economics Foundation Rosie Worsdale, Senior Policy Adviser (Housing) - Joseph Rowntree Foundation Professor Lori McElroy, Chair of the Existing Homes Alliance Scotland David Cowdrey, Director of External Affairs - MCS Foundation Rachel Deegan, Director - Fair by Design Dave Sowden, Interim Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association Dave Evans, CEO - The National Energy Foundation Rachael Williamson, Director of policy, communications & external affairs - Chartered Institute of Housing Simon McWhirter, Deputy CEO and Director of Policy, The UK Green Building Council

Rachael Owens, Co-Director - National Retrofit Hub Simon Francis, Coordinator – End Fuel Poverty Coalition Ben Twomey, Chief Executive - Generation Rent Chelsea Phillips, Chair - ACORN the Union Matthew McGregor, Chief Executive Officer, 38 Degrees Ryan Harrison, Executive Director - Energy Advice Helpline Robin Nicholson CBE, Convenor of the Edge, the Edge Alison Inman, Chair - Tpas Kate Meakin, Director - Energise Sussex Coast Giles Read, Director, Thinking Works Annie Pickering, Operations Director - Climate Emergency UK Sam Ward, Head of Climate Cymru - Climate Cymru Jim Bowen, Director - Clynfyw Care Farm Ken Little, Chair - Pontypridd Land Society Brian Heddwch, Director - Awel Amen Tawe Ruth Harding, Clerk - Cardiff Quakers Jim Bowen, Director - Ffynnone Community Resilience Jules Wagstaff - Climate and Community Stephen Jenkins - Tir Natur Dan McCallum - Egni Cooperative Suzanne luppa, Director - The Coproduction Network for Wales Ru Hartwell, Founder- Climate Shop Grant Peisley, Director - Gwyrddni David Thorpe - The One Planet Centre Sujatha Thaladi - The Mentor Ring Margeret Minhinnick, Director - Sustainable Wales Grant Peisley, Director - Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig Phillipa Gibson, Representative - XR Cardigan Anglesey Sea Zoo - Elis Glyn Jones Mike Eccles, Director - Hay Public Library