TIM FARRON MP
Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Westmorland & Lonsdale

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

22nd January 2024

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my support for Electricity North West's application into the Storm Arwen Uncertainty Mechanism. My constituency of Westmorland and Lonsdale saw extensive damage during Storm Arwen in November 2021 and I therefore welcome measures that will see vital additional funding delivered to bolster the resilience of critical electricity infrastructure across the North West.

Given the predominantly rural nature of my constituency, communities here often bear the brunt of severe weather incidents, resulting in prolonged power outages due to overhead line damage. The frequency of disruptive weather events has significantly increased across this region and is likely to continue. Therefore, it is vital that we proactively take steps to future-proof the network.

Storm Arwen highlighted the necessity to enhance the resilience of our power supply against adverse weather. This need was further emphasized by the unprecedented levels of snowfall in early December, causing multiple spans of overhead lines to collapse. Remote communities were particularly affected, facing inaccessibility as roads became impassable, hindering Electricity North West's engineers from reaching and repairing affected sites. Clearly, this situation is untenable, and additional investment is urgently required to minimize disruption.

While I appreciate Electricity North West's responsiveness to community concerns and the local resilience funding provided through initiatives like the Storm Arwen Community Resilience Fund, a more strategic approach based on targeted investment is necessary for improving network resilience, especially in rural constituencies like mine. Community involvement in this process is also crucial. I am aware that Electricity North West is planning an event to bring together local parish councillors to discuss challenges, ongoing efforts, and the most effective allocation of additional funding. Such engagements are vital to ensure targeted and efficient investment delivery.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of this funding application, trusting that you will consider the factors mentioned above in your decision-making process.

Yours faithfully

Tim Farron

Tim Farron,
MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale

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While Tim Farron MP will treat as confidential any personal information that you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. He may pass on all or some of the information to external agencies if this is necessary to help with your case. Tim Farron MP may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.