Michael Shanks MP
Minister of State
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall London, SW1A 2HP
23rd Sept 2025

Dear Minister Shanks,

The United Kingdom stands at a crossroads for industrial competitiveness. Energy intensive industry and transport are central to our national strengths, and the choices made today will determine whether these sectors can deliver a sustainable, affordable future for UK citizens. At stake is not only our global competitiveness but also the UK's climate ambitions and its position as a leader in clean technology.

This challenge requires bold, long-term decisions. As leading associations, representing energy, transport, and industry, we believe hydrogen will be vital in future-proofing key sectors of the global economy. We also advocate for consideration of the role of ammonia in helping to deliver the strategic goals associated with hydrogen.

While domestically produced hydrogen will be central to the sector, derivatives such as ammonia are essential for a range of functions.

We therefore urge you to ensure that low carbon ammonia is explicitly integrated into the UK's Hydrogen Strategy, alongside other hydrogen vectors, given its importance in decarbonising energy intensive industry and maritime.

Key considerations include:

1. **Decarbonising existing industrial applications** - Ammonia plays a critical role in sectors such as chemicals, refrigeration, explosives, textiles, and water treatment. Developing low carbon ammonia pathways alongside other hydrogen vectors, can help replace fossil-based ammonia in these industries, supporting their decarbonisation.
2. **Fertiliser and agriculture** – Low carbon ammonia can replace existing fossil-based ammonia, helping to decarbonise this sector.
3. **Maritime transport** – Shipping companies are already investing in dual-fuel and ammonia-ready vessels, underlining ammonia's role in decarbonising global trade, consistent with emerging MCA/IMO guidance for ammonia as a maritime fuel.
4. **Flexibility & system resilience and energy security** – Ammonia is both storable and transportable, making it ideal for low-carbon peaking power generation. Ammonia can enable renewable power to be moved from areas of surplus to where it is most needed. Overall, a resilient hydrogen economy will require reliable balancing mechanisms. Stored ammonia, or hydrogen converted from it, can provide this critical flexibility and flexibility in a way that complements investment and development of much-needed geological storage and pipeline infrastructure.

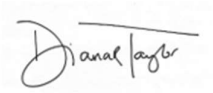
The revised Hydrogen Strategy should clearly set out ammonia's role in both the short and long term. Doing so would send a strong signal that the UK is serious about building a competitive, resilient hydrogen economy.

We therefore urge you to recognise low carbon ammonia as one integral part of the forthcoming Hydrogen Strategy.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Emma Guthrie CEO,
Hydrogen Energy Association



Diana Taylor, Managing Director,
Future Humber

David Eccles CBE, Director,
Hydrogen South West

Geraint Evans, Chief Executive
UK Major Ports Group

Andrew McDermott, Deputy Chief Executive
Ceramics UK

Arjan Geveke, Director
Energy Intensive Users Group

Dr Mike Rendall, Chair,
UK Ammonia Alliance

Mark Simmonds, Director of Policy & External Affairs
British Ports Association

Tom Chant, CEO
Society of Maritime Industries

Ellen Daniels, CEO
British Compressed Gas Association

Nigel Holmes, CEO
Hydrogen Scotland

Clare Jackson, CEO
Hydrogen UK