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|  |  | Cllr Kevin Bentley |
|  |  | Chairman, Transport East  *By email* |
| 19 January 2021 |  |  |

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

**Re: Transport East support for the Freeport East bid**

We are writing in support of the Freeport East bid. Following discussions with Hutchinson Ports we are confident their vision, centred on the Port of Felixstowe and Harwich International Port, delivers a unique opportunity for local and regional regeneration through the development of a manufacturing, green energy, digital and innovation hub.

Freeport East is a valuable asset to the local, regional and national economy and a crucial global connection in UK trade. As we develop our transport strategy Transport East has identified ‘supporting global gateways’ as one of our three strategic outcomes. The Freeport East proposals are aligned with our ambitions to support a diverse and thriving eastern economy, level-up coastal communities and decarbonise transport across the region.

We are committed to working with Hutchinson Ports to make sure the surface transport investment required to support a successful and sustainable Freeport is developed alongside their wider plans, with a particular priority of increasing the amount of freight moved by rail.

We are happy to be named in the Freeport bid as a supporting partner.

Yours Sincerely

