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THE PRIME MINISTER

14 August 2018

*Dear Tom and Julian*

Thank you both for your letter of 11 July, regarding the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

European security is, and will remain, a crucial priority for the Government. We share your Committees' reservations over the building of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, and have consistently made clear our opposition to the project.

On 16 July, following my statement to the House of Commons on the NATO Summit, I stressed our concerns over the impact of Nord Stream 2 on Ukraine. I can confirm that I regularly contribute to discussions on this issue around the European Council table, and will continue to voice UK reservations there and in bilateral discussions, including with the German, Danish and US governments.

The Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan MP, set out the Government's view on Nord Stream 2 in detail when he closed the 17 July Westminster Hall debate on the project. He emphasised that, while the pipeline will have no significant impact on UK energy security, we do not believe that Nord Stream 2 is necessary and we remain concerned that its construction will be harmful to European interests and particularly those of Ukraine. Russia has repeatedly used its gas supplies as a political tool, and Nord Stream 2 would provide another lever for Russia with which to apply pressure. Ukraine's economic prospects would also be damaged if it ceased to function as a transit route for gas supplies at scale.

I hope this response reassures you how seriously we are taking this issue and its potentially destabilising effect on the region and our interests.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

*Yours ever  
Rishi*

Mr Tom Tugendhat MBE MP and The Right Honourable Dr Julian Lewis MP