

Baroness Wilcox

Parliamentary Secretary for Business
Innovation & Skills

Lord Bhattacharyya
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

15 June 2010

Dear Khumanz

QUEEN'S SPEECH DEBATE


I would like to thank you for your contribution to the Queen's Speech debate (*4th day*) of Wednesday 2 June 2010 and respond to the points you raised regarding the importance of industry and manufacturing, and the future of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).

Manufacturing is vitally important to the success of the UK economy, so I am particularly encouraged by recent figures which indicate a broad return to growth. The Government is committed to create the conditions for business growth, recognising that it is particularly important that manufacturing continues to contribute to a balanced economy. There are significant opportunities, particularly around high value manufacturing, where it will be important to make use of our comparative advantage. Over the coming weeks we will be working to establish priorities for facilitating the continued growth of manufacturing in the UK. I am sure that you and the Warwick Manufacturing Group will continue to be valuable contributors to the debate as we move forward.

The Government is also committed to renewing and strengthening local economies. We will do this by enabling business and local authorities in natural economic areas to come together with proposals to form Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). LEPs will therefore be developed from the local level rather than being imposed by central government. They will produce and then implement a clear strategic plan for the economic development of their area.

The Government is keen to ensure that there is an orderly transition from the current arrangements to the future structure that we intend to put in place. In making these reforms our aim is to provide more effective and better targeted support where it can make a real difference and create the environment for businesses to grow. We will announce further information on these proposals in due course with the aim of introducing legislation as necessary during the current session of parliament.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords library.

as ever


BARONESS WILCOX