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BritishAmerican Business Response to the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme (BICS) Consultation

On behalf of BritishAmerican Business (BAB) and our transatlantic member companies, we welcome the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme (BICS). BAB supports the Government's objective of improving UK industrial competitiveness through lower industrial electricity costs and greater long-term policy certainty.

Our members with manufacturing operations in the UK food and drink sector continue to raise concerns about the cumulative impact of energy and wider operating cost pressures on competitiveness, investment, and consumer affordability. Against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, energy market volatility, and ongoing pressure on food prices, long-term support for food and drink manufacturing remains critical.

In this context, BAB is concerned that food and drink manufacturing remains outside the current scope of BICS because it is not currently recognised as a strategic growth sector in the Government's Industrial Strategy. As the UK's largest manufacturing sector, food and drink businesses make a significant contribution to the UK economy through innovation, jobs, regional growth, supply chain resilience, and inward investment.

The exclusion of food and drink manufacturing from BICS risks leaving the sector's economic and investment potential unrealised. There is also the risk of the emergence of a two-tier manufacturing economy, where some strategically important sectors benefit from long-term cost relief, while others facing equal pressures remain excluded: facing higher costs and weaker incentives to invest.

Therefore, **BAB encourages the Government to reconsider the exclusion of food and drink manufacturing from BICS** and to ensure that the UK's approach to industrial competitiveness and growth reflects the sector's strategic importance and exposure to ongoing energy cost pressures. This would not only help the UK economy, but also households stemming from inflationary pressures that arise from energy shocks.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and would welcome continued engagement on the implementation of BICS and wider issues affecting UK industrial competitiveness.

Yours sincerely,

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