

## WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM DR IRENE FORTUNE

Dear Convener of the TICC Committee

I would be grateful if you and your Committee would consider my views in relation to the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill.

In the midst of an economic crisis, it's easy to shelf action on tackling climate change. Meanwhile climate change continues unabated and the consequences look very grim.

The probable timescale of change is frighteningly rapid. For example, the artic may be ice free (during the summer) in as little as 20 years! That would cause extinction of many artic species, most notably, the noble polar bear. The thought that our grandchildren will be burdened with such loss is extremely depressing and shameful.

Another concern is the acidification of seawater, due to changes in ocean currents and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. This would apparently lead to further CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the ocean floor resulting in stagnation and certain death of marine food sources.

Given the timescales and the severity of the changes, delaying reductions in Scottish emissions is undefendable and counter productive.

We all need to change our lifestyles to reduce carbon usage now, not in 5 or 10 years.

We need radical political leadership to enact financial burdens (taxes) on consumption (energy, car use, flights and even imported food) and to subsidise cleaner alternatives (lpg public transport, micro-renewables, research on domestic energy efficiency). This is the only way we, the public, will change our behaviour.

In addition, we must contribute and campaign for international measures such as agreeing a model to reduce aviation and shipping emissions and to control damaging land use policies (i.e. palm oil plantations).

Finally, the climate change policies have to be robust, with penalties and incentives to ensure they are effective and not simply a redundant wish list, like the UN charter. Where there is a will, there is a way!

I hope you can make sure Scotland gets a strong Climate Change Act that ensures:

- Serious action to reduce emissions - starting now. The time for action must be now, so the Bill must require at least 3% annual reductions in emissions year-on-year (in line with the SNP Manifesto commitment), starting immediately and not just in ten years time. Delaying a requirement for at least 3% reductions in emissions until 2020 means action will be too late.
- All emissions are addressed from the start.
- A limit on carbon trading.
- Robust reporting

I am willing to play my part in reducing emissions and believe Scotland can lead the way in tackling climate change. Now I am looking to the Scottish Parliament to deliver strong climate change legislation that must be implemented urgently, could be the best in the world and could be a blueprint for other developed nations.

Yours sincerely  
Dr Irene Fortune