

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM JILLY MCKAY

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.

Alarmed as I am about the devastation climate change will bring to our planet in the near future, I am pleased to see that the Scottish Parliament is on its way to making its Climate Change Bill an Act at the end of 2009. However, I believe that the aims of the Bill could be made much stronger.

The Bill currently proposes that we delay our annual reduction in carbon emissions target of 3% until the year 2020, and that emissions from international aviation and shipping will only be included after more consultation. Climate change is happening now and I am anxious to see Scotland take immediate action to reduce its emissions. What is there to be gained by delaying until 2020? It is essential that we act now if we even have a hope of protecting our planet and its endangered species from climate change.

I would also like to see a Scottish Climate Change Commission set up in the very near future which will advise and support the delivery of the emissions reduction targets in Scotland. Furthermore, it is vital that we impose a strict limit on the amount of emissions reductions that Scotland can buy from overseas if we want to ensure that Scotland does its fair share in tackling climate change. What is the point in purchasing more emissions reductions than are only absolutely necessary? This will only offset our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Finally, I would like the Bill to ensure that Scotland also considers consumption based emissions, as we are responsible for emissions produced when goods made in another country are then exported to Scotland.

Ultimately, time is of the utmost essence and the most crucial message I hope to convey here is that we must act now to reduce our impact on climate change. If the above steps are taken in strengthening the Climate Change Bill, I believe that our country will stand a much better chance of meeting its emission reduction targets and thus will be much more effective in tackling climate change.

Thank you for your time and I very much hope that my views will be taken into account.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Jilly McKay