

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM ALEXA MORRISON

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.

2009 is a critical year for climate change, as internationally we seek to create a new global deal to tackle this massive threat to our planet, and here in Scotland there is a huge opportunity to enact the most progressive climate change legislation in the world.

Tackling climate change matters to me because I am greatly concerned about the devastating impact it will have on people, biodiversity and ecosystems, particularly in developing countries where people are most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

I know that the legislation can be strengthened or weakened as it goes through the Scottish Parliament. I welcome the long-term target of at least an 80% reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. However the Bill needs to be strengthened further to ensure the action it prompts will tackle emissions and avoid dangerous climate change.

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

- Serious action to reduce emissions - starting now. The Bill must require at least 3% annual reductions in emissions (in line with the SNP Manifesto commitment), starting immediately and not 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. Ministers have made this commitment, yet the Bill says emissions from international aviation and shipping will only be included after more consultation and legislation. This is not acceptable.
- Scotland has a Scottish Climate Change Commission that understands the Scottish context, data and policies. The Commission should advise and support delivery of the emissions reduction targets in Scotland, and support their scrutiny in the Scottish Parliament.
- A limit on carbon trading. A limit on the amount of emissions reductions that Scotland can buy from overseas. This is vital if the Bill is to ensure Scotland benefits from real domestic emissions reduction and does its fair share to tackle climate change. Where Scotland does purchase carbon credits, purchases should be made from projects that contribute to sustainable development, and ideally projects that have a climate change adaptation element or help build livelihoods in developing countries (e.g. Plan Vivo projects).
- Robust reporting to help Parliament hold Scottish Ministers and Government to account. The spirit of the Bill is good, but the mechanisms and processes need to be strong, transparent and ensure accountability, with scrutiny always in the public domain.
- Scotland fully quantifies its emissions. As well as direct emissions we should also be reporting on consumption-based emissions - those arising in another country when they produce the goods that we buy. I am continually frustrated with the Kuznets curve argument, that we have developed to a point where we have started to decarbonise our economy - this is simply not true where we are continuing to consume goods whose impact is not included in our calculated footprint.
- All public bodies have a duty to deliver the targets set out in this Bill from the start. Public bodies have a critical role to play in delivering the necessary emissions reductions and setting an example to the private sector.

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

Miss Alexa Morrison