

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM DR SUSAN BOWIE

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.

My house will be swamped as sea level rises, but I also think we are putting our children's future in jeopardy if we haven't secured a clean source of energy for their future.

Tackling climate change is the most important thing we can look to do to secure our children's future, and I believe the most important of any of the work that the Scottish Parliament can do. (not to mention keeping the Greenland icecap out of my kitchen!) I feel that tackling climate change now will also provide in the short term construction phase much needed jobs.

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 time for action must be now, 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. Ministers have made this commitment, yet the Bill says emissions from international aviation and shipping will only be included after more consultation and legislation. The Bill should make sure all emissions are included from the start.
- Scotland gets a Scottish Climate Change Commission that understands the unique Scottish context, data and policies. The Commission will advise and support delivery of the emissions reduction targets in Scotland, and critically will 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.
- 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 counts all 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.
- 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 a duty within the Climate Change Bill would ensure they take the appropriate action to deliver their fair share.

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 Susan Bowie