

## WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM MARI-CLAIRE RILEY

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 concerned about the devastating impact it will have for children, adults and nature around the world. I find it somewhat frustrating that, despite cries from the public as well as the scientific information provided by researchers within this field, we still have to procrastinate and deliberate about installing vital legislation which will inevitably protect our future on this planet. I understand that drastic targets are daunting and that no party wish to commit to the 'first step' for fear of public disapproval, however there is no point in protecting a ideology or economy that without our environment would cease to exist in the first place. Based on the opinions voiced to myself from members of the public, as I work within the environmental sector, I can assure that committing to these targets will be interpreted as a bold move made by a government who cares not only for today's economy but also for the future generations who will ultimately be left with the repercussions of our choices we make today. It is for them, the future generations, I feel the most for, as where we are still dealing with the consequences of the wrong environmental decisions made during the industrial revolution, they will have to face a vast decrease in their quality of life as conditions change, possibly leading to displacement of the greater population.

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, 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. 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

Mrs Mari-claire Riley