

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM MARK JAMES

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.

There is a huge opportunity to enact the most progressive climate change legislation in the world.

Reading the new scientist this week reminded me that significant changes to the climate are already stored up. If we do not act decisively NOW we wont be able to introduce remedies in the future. The ambitious Bill needs to set stringent annual targets to reduce CO2. It doesn't have to be suffering hairshirtism but an opportunity to build our communities for a resilient creative and supportive future. Take action and bask in the glory of getting credit from future generations. A truly great legacy. So more funding for alternatives to energy guzzling activities. Just two examples: Promote cycling walking and keeping it local. A comprehensive programme of energy efficiency measures with a team of auditors holding people's hands through the process. Give us the targets and lets get a plan of action organised. warmer more efficient homes and happier people for a start!

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.
- 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.
- A limit on carbon trading. A limit on the amount of emissions reductions that Scotland can buy from overseas.
- Robust reporting to help Parliament hold Scottish Ministers and Government to account.

Scotland counts all its emissions, as well as direct emissions we should also be reporting on consumption-based emissions

- 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 playing 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  
Mr Mark James