

## WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM MORAG WATSON

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.

We are entering a critical time in our battle to avert dangerous levels of climate change as the IPCC have stated that we have a rapidly closing window of opportunity to act. Climate change is the most serious issue that faces humanity and we must take urgent action if we are to secure our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of other life on Earth. I am extremely proud that Scotland is leading the way, putting in place world-leading legislation. But I am deeply concerned that the Climate Change Bill will fall short of both our ambitions and what experts tell us is necessary.

This legislation can be both strengthened or weakened as it goes through the Scottish Parliament and I expect those that were elected to represent me to do all they can to strengthen this legislation. I welcome the long-term target of at least an 80% reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. However I urge that the Bill is strengthened further to ensure the action it prompts will tackle emissions and avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

I wish to see a Scotland 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.

As a founding member of our Transition Town group I am already 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  
Ms Morag Watson