

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM TIM HUGHES

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

I welcome the long-term target of at least an 80% reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 but the Bill needs to be strengthened further to ensure the action it prompts will tackle emissions and avoid dangerous climate change. In my view it is vital that the current financial and associated political "crisis" is seen as an indication of need to strengthen this legislation rather than as an excuse to weaken it.

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

- Serious action to reduce emissions starts now. Delaying a requirement for at least 3% reductions in emissions until 2020 means action may well be too late.
- All emissions are addressed from the start including that from international aviation and shipping.
- Scotland gets a Scottish Climate Change Commission that understands the unique Scottish context, data and policies.
- There is a limit on carbon trading.
- There is a robust reporting system to help Parliament hold Scottish Ministers and Government to account.
- 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.

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.

Tim Hughes