Template Letter for MSPs

Dear [insert name of MSP],

RE: Scottish Government’s new Climate Change Bill

I’m writing to seek your support to strengthen the upcoming Climate Change Bill and to help ensure that it sets more ambitious targets, commits to firm action and lives up to Scotland’s international responsibilities.

As you’ll be aware, nearly every country on earth was represented at the historic Paris Climate Agreement talks in December 2015 and agreed to pursue efforts to limit global temperature increases to 1.5⁰ against pre-industrial levels. It’s therefore encouraging to see the Scottish Government commit to introducing a new Climate Change Bill with the intention of enshrining the Paris Agreement in Scottish law.

Unfortunately, the consultation document suggests that the new Bill will not set strong enough targets and will lack the action needed to meet the goals of Paris. The consultation suggests a target of a 90% reduction in emissions by 2050 whereas international climate experts say that if we’re going to have a good chance of limiting global warming to 2ºC then global emissions need to halve in each decade and reach zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. To get to 1.5⁰ we’d need to go even further and faster.

Previous experience and action, including that taken by the Scottish Government, shows that we should not be afraid to set bolder, more radical targets when it comes to tackling climate change. In 2009, the ambitious annual reduction targets of 3% per year and the interim target of a 42% reduction by 2020 were seen by some to be impossible. But Scotland has met its annual reduction targets for the last two years and overall emissions have already fallen by 41%, indicating that the 2020 target will be met.

This is why I am writing to ask that Scotland’s new Climate Change Act:

1) Sets a target of **zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest**, and a reduction of 77% by 2030

2) Ensures that future **finance budgets are consistent with our climate targets**

3) **Commits to actions** that cut emissions and **deliver a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous Scotland:**

* **Cut emissions from our homes:**Ensure that all homes have at least Energy Performance Rating ‘C’ by 2025 Heating our homes and buildings is responsible for 50% of our climate emissions. Bringing all homes up to EPC ‘C’ by 2025 would not only reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, but would help tackle fuel poverty and create jobs all across Scotland.
* **Cleaner transport:** phase out the sale of new fossil fuel cars by 2030 Our emissions from transport have hardly gone down since 1990. Phasing out fossil fuel vehicles would reduce emissions, clean up air pollution and improve the nation’s health.
* **Greener farming:** Set a nitrogen budget for Scotland by 2020 Farming is responsible for almost a quarter of Scotland's climate pollution, and lots of this comes from the manufacture and use of nitrogen-based fertilisers – a national nitrogen budget would help to promote more efficient use of fertilisers and a switch to alternatives, such as composts made from recycled food waste.

Around the world, other countries are setting strong targets and establishing the policies needed to meet them. For example, Sweden just passed a world leading Bill pledging to cut emissions to zero by 2050 and French President Emmanuel Macron has pledged to do the same in France.

So not only has Scotland proven that it can meet ambitious targets, but more and more countries are setting targets that are even stronger than those proposed by the Scottish Government. If Scotland is to continue to be a world leader on climate change, we must set bolder targets and the strong action needed to achieve them. I look forward to hearing from you,

Thank you,

[NAME]

[Address and post code]

[Email]