I am concerned about the global impacts of climate change on people and wildlife, and I am proud to live in a country which has shown great leadership by setting the strongest legislation to reduce carbon emissions of any country of the world, through the Scottish Climate Change Act.

To ensure that we can achieve the targets within our Act, it's crucial that we accelerate our efforts to develop a strong and flourishing renewable energy industry, providing much-needed jobs and a secure supply of clean, green energy in the long term. Alongside energy saving measures, renewables will have a critical role to play in helping Scotland reduce climate emissions as we phase out polluting fossil fuels and nuclear power.

There is evidence that it's more than possible for all of Scotland's electricity needs to come from renewable sources by 2020. Analysis by leading independent experts Garrad Hassan and summarised in the report The Power of Scotland Secured by Friends of the Earth Scotland, RSPB Scotland and WWF Scotland, shows us that meeting our ambitious renewable electricity targets is certainly achievable. This conclusion is backed up by separate work from the industry trade body Scottish Renewables. The vital ingredient needed to drive the delivery of these targets is political ambition. This inquiry must strive to strengthen the current commitment to renewables and not weaken it.

I urge you to use this opportunity to support Scotland’s renewables ambitions so that we can continue to drive forward this agenda and help us successfully deliver the targets of the Scottish Climate Change Act.

Ms A Reeve
16 February 2012