Written submission from Fyne Forestry Ltd

I would like to make the following comments in relation to the above Bill:-

- Scottish Land Commission – The Land Commissioners **must** have some forestry experience
- Community engagement – Any new requirements for land managers to engage with local communities over land management decisions must not duplicate what is already a unique and comprehensive scoping and consultation procedure for all forestry and woodland operations.
- Sustainable development – Forest and woodland management in Scotland is sustainable development – it is highly regulated and complies with the UK Forestry Standard. Many forests and woodlands are also managed under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. It is very long term in nature both from the point of view of initial investment and through the lifetime of the management of the woodland and its harvest crop. Different owners’ legitimate management objectives during that time must be respected.
- Sporting rates – if these are to be reintroduced for “shooting estates and deer forests”, then a distinction must be made between land managed for sporting purposes as compared to within forests and woodland where deer control is a necessity. An appropriate exemptions clause should be included within the bill.