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Convenor
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
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20 March 2024

Dear Edward,

I am writing to inform the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee of the publication of the draft Bioenergy Policy Statement for 12 week consultation.

The draft Bioenergy Policy Statement sets out that the finite amount of sustainable biomass which is available to the bioenergy sector must be prioritised to where it can be most effective in reducing emissions and where there are limited options to displace fossil fuels in hard to decarbonise sectors.

As the technology develops, the priority use for bioenergy should be facilitating carbon removal via Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) technologies. Delivering engineered negative emissions will be required to offset residual emissions from across the economy.

We are seeking views on the priorities and principles for use of bioenergy which we have set out in the draft statement.

We are also seeking views on the potential to scale up domestic production of biomass via planting of perennial energy crops. The draft statement sets out that this must be done in a sustainable way. Decisions on opportunities to scale up biomass production should align with and support Scotland's goals for protecting and restoring nature and will need to take into consideration the many other demands of our land.

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Bioenergy is already a key component of our energy system and contributes to a more circular economy. This policy statement sets out a future pathway for the bioenergy sector to play a significant role in our pathway to net zero.

Evidence provided through the consultation will be taken account of when developing a final Bioenergy Policy Statement.

Gillian Martin

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