20 August 2015

Dear Rob,

Making Things Last: Consultation on creating a more circular economy in Scotland

I am pleased to advise the Committee that I have today launched an important consultation on the circular economy.

When the Scottish Parliament held its first parliamentary debate on the circular economy earlier this year, I indicated I would bring together many of the ideas discussed into proposals for a circular economy strategy. This consultation explores the priorities for building a more circular economy in Scotland, where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible.

The consultation builds on Scotland’s progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas, and focuses on a much broader set of business and industry opportunities that could arise through reduced reliance on virgin materials and on opportunities to influence behaviour change in our communities.

During the Parliamentary debate I was pleased to hear the contributions from across the chamber, notably from members of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee, on the opportunities for a circular economy and on action already underway within their own constituencies. I look forward to working further with the Committee on this exciting agenda.

The consultation document can be found at: https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/zero-waste-delivery/making-things-last. The closing date for responses is 30 October 2015.

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