Dear Mr. Shaw,

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

I am writing regarding the recent work of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee of the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government’s Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill. Your officials have kindly been working with the clerks to the Committee to arrange a time when we might be able to hear from you on the experience in New Zealand of legislating to combat the global threat of climate change and to collectively achieve the commitments made in Paris.

As it has unfortunately not been possible for us to find a mutually convenient time for this, the Committee has asked me to write to you seeking your views on the Bill and detail of your approach in New Zealand.

The Committee would very much welcome information on:

- The Zero Carbon Bill:
  - Based on your research by Westpac, are you intending to take increased early action on the route to 2050, rather than incremental progress each year towards that target date?
  - The Committee heard from representatives from Sweden on 30 October 2018 and they said the message of “net zero” was easy to communicate and understand. What impact did naming this the “Zero Carbon Bill” have in terms of messaging and communication with the public?
  - You consulted people on whether there should be “zero” targets for Carbon Dioxide, some emissions and all emissions (net zero) by 2050. What levels are you considering setting targets at? For which years will you set targets and why?
o What will be your approach to accounting and use of international carbon credits? Will you include New Zealand’s share of international aviation and shipping in the targets?

o What do you see as the role of the proposed Commission on Climate Change and how will its advice interact with policy making by the Government of New Zealand.

- How does New Zealand currently assess and account for emissions?
- What action has New Zealand take to date in terms of implementation of climate targets?
  o How is this assessed for each sector of the economy and how do you quantify what each should be achieving (for example, in Scotland the TIMES model was used for the most recent Climate Change Plan)?

- How you are approaching challenges analogous to Scotland, such as:
  o Considering/accounting for emissions caused by land use and agriculture and providing support to farming and land use communities to achieve behaviour change
  o Are you restoring peatland? If so, by what means are you doing this, do you have targets and what are the challenges?
  o Transport around a rural nation
  o Reducing and ceasing oil and gas extraction
  o Behaviour and cultural change to reduce energy consumption and achieve change across all sectors of the economy

- What was your experience of, and approach to, setting up a domestic emissions trading scheme?
- How do you propose to consider issues of a fair, equal and just transition to a low carbon economy?
- Unique challenges faced by New Zealand as an island nation in the Pacific and neighbour to those facing very serious implications of climate change, and how you are taking those into account in your approach to domestic climate change legislation.

The Committee would appreciate a response from you by 30 November 2018. On behalf of the Committee, I’d like to thank you again for your willingness to assist us in our consideration of the Bill and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Gillian Martin MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee