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To: liz.kirk@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: climate bill

in response to the consultation question 1.

1

Forestry commission scotland is being represented by the commissioners as the best vehicle to push the climate bill for joint ventures in the renewable energy sector which if it was true government would not be hiding the fact they are trying to privatise the family silver in a response to their other unsubstantiated promises they have made ,yes joint ventures will be good the forestry estate has the land assets to be the most productive, and if delivered properly would be a huge asset to the public purse, forestry commission for years have used the practice of felling to waste large ,large ,areas in scotland which they deem to be of no economic use ?with the introduction of biomass power stations this practice will hopefully be reversed and the crop seen as a sustainable crop in the biomass sector .

2

Allowing the scottish ministers and forestry commissioners to offer leases and cutting rights over the estate is the proof that it is the ministers who are being corrupted by private investment companys lobbying them to lease land for them to enhance their profits over the rights of the public who already have invested through their taxes in this asset and these tax investments will be realised by the investment companys.

IT also disrupts the continuity of timber supply to woodmills because private companys are not going to sell wood to them when at times the timber prices are low where the forestry commission have been loosing out because they have not been able due to the promises made to supply the industry ,this needs to be remedied as why should we produce a product after years of care to an industry that makes massive profits at extremely low prices in some cases paying to deliver it ?

3

THIS is the real crux of a supposed climate bill it almost says privatisation they want to change the rules to allow them sell rights to the estate and then say stipulating the constitution of such a not for profit trust, this means they can manipulate the books ,this means money from leases and licences will not be put back into more planting ,nor renewable energy on the forest estate but can be shifted side ways in short term fixes they will not even give an answer on their proposals for the use of the money.

4

Changes needed are the ridiculous red tape that ties the hands of the commission where the £90,000,000 funding is not the total that goes to the estate as £30,000,000 is given straight back to the treasury?this being the total given to forestry commission britain.

private sector are not being scrutinised over their emission efforts unless you call cheap short term labour from europe with eight to a caravan no toilets etc ,you can find this on any private sector forest operations, very basic health and safety ,untrained labour ,low wages.

many, many woodlands in the private sector sit idle for years it would be worth ministers who can get their wellies on and out of their offices ,and go and look at these forests and see whats not going on.

forestry commission scotland are right now key to reducing emissions in scotland along with all other departments ,they have the land assets for greener energies ,they need better funding ,better management framework to deliver these benefits i,e get rid of the top heavy system or institution that they call forestry commissioners.

this consultation on climate change has not got anything to compare especially in the private sector it is of course a privatisation paper the government looking to release over 180,000,000 for other areas or empty promises dished out so far.

the enviroment minister needs to be taught the difference between actually making a difference and making changes to suit their shopping list the climate

change is a very serious subject not for mps to gain promotion without actually doing anything but using the experts who are qualified to do so , to use our biggest and last asset to its greatest potential work with it not sell it ,and certainly not into the hands of investment companies who will asset strip, cause social and economic damage destabilise rural communities which are already in very fragile state .

My example would be the building of the hydro scheme at glendoe fort augustus .millions and millions of pounds of work,a great renewable energy,but what benefit to the community short term work nearly all the labour coming from overseas with their earnings to be sent home ,one land owner getting millions and the million pounds of tunnel spoil as a bonus ,there is no cheaper energy for the area it is sold to the national grid and we then pay a premium to use it but it is produced on our doorstep,total full time jobs on finished site 2
PEOPLE

LEASE THE FORESTS AND THERE IS ONE WINNER AND IT IS NOT OUR ENVIRONMENT NOR ITS PEOPLE .

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