



To the Scottish Government,

We are part of the climate justice movement in Scotland. Some of us work to protect and restore Scotland's environment. Others live off the land, producing our food or our timber. Still more find comfort and healing in the outdoors and would like to see Scotland rich in nature again.

In one way or another, we all believe in Scotland's future.

That is why we write to you with a big idea. It has to do with our land which, unfortunately, is in a sorry state.

Most of our peatlands are degraded and our woodlands unable to regenerate. For the benefit of people who like to shoot deer or grouse for sport, our land has become depleted, scarred and trampled upon, emitting greenhouse gases when it should be a huge carbon sink, home to thriving diverse habitats.

This must change.

Large estate owners must be held responsible for the way they manage their land. And those who put their private interests above the public good must pay for the damage they cause. Because fundamentally, everyone has the right to a healthy, thriving environment.

It is on that basis that we ask you to implement a Carbon Emissions Land Tax. In the short-term, those who fail to manage their land for nature and climate will pay, and the funds raised could support community climate projects.

In the medium-term, the burden of taxation will nudge landowner behaviour. By creating the conditions necessary for the land to recover and soak up carbon once again, landowners will avoid paying the tax. Land will play its full part in the fight against the climate crisis. Because ecosystems will be functional again, biodiversity will thrive. Land will be healthy once more.

And the communities it supports will benefit in countless ways. Land will filter our water and clean our air. The necessary restoration and conservation work will multiply the number of local, well paid, rewarding jobs. From sustainable stalking and biodiversity and carbon monitoring, to developing expertise in natural regeneration and sustainable extraction of natural resources – rural economies will diversify and grow.

So today, we write to you with a big proposal. One that tackles the climate crisis and the nature crisis while strengthening rural communities. We are ready to help you make this policy a reality and transform Scotland's future.

Signed,

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