



Mr. Enda Kenny TD,
An Taoiseach,
Department of the Taoiseach,
Government Buildings,
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin 2

11th March 2013

Dear Taoiseach,
(CC: Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore)

RE: Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill

As CEOs of member organisations of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, we are writing to express our disappointment at the draft Heads of Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill published last month. The Bill should put in place a framework that will allow us to work towards a low-carbon Ireland. The resulting law needs to be strong enough to provide certainty. This is vital if we are to build a sustainable and smart Irish economy. The Bill as currently proposed will not provide this certainty.

The main weakness of the proposed Bill is the lack of clear targets. A 2050 target of at least an 80% cut in emissions is an essential part of a climate bill. Indeed, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has indicated that developed countries like Ireland must reduce emissions by 80 – 95% by 2050. We feel that there is no justification for omitting this solid scientifically based objective from the Bill. Transition to a low-carbon economy is a long-term goal and emission reduction targets should be on a phased basis, for 2020, 2030 and up to a decarbonised economy in 2050. Without these targets, slippage is inevitable.

In September last year we requested a meeting with the Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Green Economy ahead of the publication of the draft Heads of Bill. Our request was forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. We have yet to receive a response. We remain interested in meeting with the Committee to discuss the Heads of Bill.

The Climate Bill is about mapping out a strong and sustainable future for Ireland. It is also about ensuring that Ireland lives up to its global responsibilities. It is the poorest citizens in the developing and middle income nations who suffer most from the often devastating impacts of climate change. As a nation that has benefited from our own development to date, we need to do our fair share. A strong Climate Law is the basis of making this happen.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the very near future at a time that is convenient to you to share our thoughts on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

RE Bennett

Rosamond Bennett
Chief Executive
Christian Aid Ireland



Catherine Brennan

Catherine Brennan SSL
Eco Congregation Ireland



Jim Clarken

Jim Clarken
Chief Executive
Oxfam Ireland



Oisín Coghlan

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Chief Executive
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BirdWatchIreland
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Joe Murray
Director
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James Nix
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VOICE



Fleachta Phelan

Fleachta Phelan
Policy and Advocacy
Comhlámh



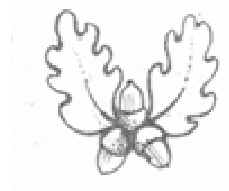
Tom Roche

Tom Roche
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Just Forests



David Rose

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