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Dear Convener,

Following introduction of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill, I thought it would be of use to explain the reasons an expedited timeline on this legislation is necessary.

As you are aware the Climate Change Committee (CCC) has given us conclusive advice that the 2030 target of 75% emissions reductions, set by Parliament in 2019, is out of reach. We know the actions needed to reach the current targets would not be credible or in line with the principles of a just transition and could cause serious impacts across our communities. Maintaining them would leave us in an intolerable and unsustainable position where we have targets in legislation which the expert advice shows we cannot meet. We must therefore find a new path towards net zero by 2045, and the CCC has advised that adopting carbon budgets presents the best route forward realigning our target framework to this ultimate goal.

The expedited timing of this Bill is also driven by the upcoming deadline to set a new Climate Change Plan (CCP). Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, a draft CCP must be laid before Parliament by 22 November to meet the statutory deadline of March 2025 for the final version of the plan. Under the Act, the CCP needs to set out policies and proposals for meeting emissions targets. As current targets are out of reach, we have to adjust our target framework before we can bring forward a credible CCP to fulfil our statutory obligations.

These factors, combined with the statutory four-week standstill period between a Bill being passed and Royal Assent being sought, mean that the Bill must conclude its passage before October recess this year. Once this Bill, which is narrowly focussed on addressing issues with the target framework and CCP timeline, is completed we will move swiftly to setting targets via secondary legislation following receipt of the latest CCC advice. I will work at pace and across Parliament to build a Climate Change Plan with a clear focus on net zero delivery. I look forward to engaging on the Bill in the weeks ahead and hope this information explains the vital need for swift progress on this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

**Gillian Martin**

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