

Donegal Red Squirrel Group

To whom it may concern, I wish to state my opposition to these proposed changes to the above bill. As chairperson of Donegal Red Squirrel Group I am extremely concerned about this. This is a curtailing of ordinary people being able to appeal any forestry decision. I demand that you Minister Hackett Abandon her proposed Bill- it will stop the appeals but won't fix the cause.

- Prioritise improving the quality of licensing decisions by addressing longstanding and well recognised failures in the system, and by correctly applying environmental legislation.
- Put the creation of a new forestry programme front and centre and ensure that it recognises community and environmental concerns .
- Reform the forestry grants system so that it incentivises delivery of a new positive forestry model.
- Reject the MacKinnon report, which was commissioned to help speed up the forestry licensing system. It is the basis for the Bill's proposal to introduce fees for forestry appeals.

Yours sincerely

Donegal Red Squirrel Group