

## **Murray Timber Group**

To whom this concerns,

### **I write to say I am in full support of the Forestry Bill 2020.**

I work purchasing loges for Murray Timber Group, one of Irelands leading sawmills. We have seen first-hand a massive drop off in volume being made available to our sawmill and in fact the whole sawmilling sector. This is due to the fact that there is a long delay on most felling licence applications being issued. There is an excessive amount of work been put on the FAC and it appears that they cannot cope with this work load.

The forestry industry cannon stay going the way it is. Sawmills, forest contractors, hauliers, and private forestry companies are under extreme stress with the amount of uncertainty out there at the moment and some companies have already stated to downscale. If the 2020 forestry bill is not passed then the forestry is looking at huge unemployment and a massive loss of turnover to our economy.

Forestry has always battled away through hard times. For example in 2008 when Irelands economy crashed in Ireland our sawmilling sector found sale for sawn timber overseas and this kept the forestry industry going. Now we face massive challenges ahead under the current pandemic Covid 19. Timber cannot be halted during these times. Along with our own forestry industry, this will effect building, transport and energy sectors, so now more than ever we need to stay going.

Kind Regards,

**Murray Timber Group**