

Save West Cavan group

A chara

We just want to register our objection to the proposed forestry bill which would appear to be aiming to curtail the rights of concerned and affected families to appeal on forestry planting & harvest applications. The idea of putting a charge on appealing while not putting a charge on applications is at variance with good practice & any charge on appealing on environmental grounds will ultimately be found in contravention of EU law. The idea of removing the right to oral hearing is anti democratic & will have consequences for other Departments where oral hearings are also available. It is worth noting that Save West Cavan group have appealed decisions affecting the west Cavan area & this s result of 6000 hectares of planting in an area with 3 SAC 's and a UNESCO Geopark & yet there never was seen a need for an Environmental Impact Assessment. We have some DED's with 30% afforestation & no one prior to our establishment consideration the cumulative affects on either environment or community.

We feel this bill is ill considered when full reform of forestry is required. The Save West Cavan group are available should the minister choose to have further engagement on this issue.

Mise le meas

██████████ on behalf of committee members Save West Cavan