

GP Wood

A Chara

I would like to express my support of the Draft Agriculture Appeals (Amendment) Bill 2020. I'm a qualified Environmental Scientist from the University of Limerick and following 8 years working as an Environmental Consultant I moved into the forestry sector and have worked in that sector for the last 15 years. I'm very proud to work in this sector and am a strong believer in the critical role the industry plays in the Ireland's Climate Action Plan.

"It is well known that forests play a key role in our battle against climate change; storing carbon while sucking in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and locking it into their biomass" – Sir David Attenborough UN Environment Programme.

I'm acutely aware of the requirement for the proposed changes to the current appeals process. Currently the situation is not sustainable.

- There are long delays to licences caused by the FAC
- The FAC cannot cope with the workload
- This is hindering forestry activity and damaging the industry
- It is vital that the FAC is reformed to make it fit for purpose

This is a very critical decision as a thriving forestry industry is Ireland's biggest tool to combat climate change. It is also very clear to me that peoples livelihoods are in jeopardy given the current situation. .

Yours Sincerely