

Young Rural Greens

Dear Senator Hackett

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Rural Young Greens to express our disappointment in your current proposal to amend the Agricultural Appeals Bill 2020.

It is our view that this is an amendment that will threaten access to justice. We believe that it is fair to object to damaging forestry developments, and that this amendment will restrict the voice of communities and environmental groups.

This is a Bill that does nothing to prevent unsuitable and unsustainable forestry developments that damage water quality and drive biodiversity loss. Instead, it silences communities (most of whom are rural), who will suffer the consequences of these developments. We at the Rural Young Greens hope that you will consider withdrawing this amendment.

As a rural Minister, you know as well as us how we need a new forestry approach that prioritises rural communities, biodiversity and climate action, and now that we have a Minister for Land Use and Biodiversity from rural Ireland who genuinely understands our concerns, we sincerely hope that a new approach to forestry can be found and implemented during your tenure in this position.

Yours faithfully

Rural Young Greens