

## Western Forestry Co-op

To whom it concerns

I am writing to you in support of legislation for the forestry Draft Agriculture Appeals (Amendment) Bill 2020.

I qualified as a forester from UCD in 2015 which provided me with the opportunity to move back home to Co. Leitrim where I got married, got a mortgage and have two young boys. The current backlog of sites caused by FAC who cannot cope with the workload in front of them has caused me to be reduced to four days a week and this may be reduced further if action isn't taken. So called 'Save Leitrim' who are serial objectors do not represent me or my family or my work colleagues and clients who are local landowners who have a right to afforest their land as long as it follows the rules and guidelines as set out by the department. The FAC are not able to deal with the likes of 'save Leitrim' and people like them as the current system allows them to clog up the system, nothing can move and this needs to be changed allowing actual genuine appeal cases to be heard and genuine people to make a living from forestry. It is vital that FAC is reformed and made fit for purpose or there will be massive job losses in the sector, job losses rural Ireland cannot afford and I fear for my ability to be able to pay my mortgage if the situation doesn't improve soon. Livelihoods are at stake here.

I support the proposed changes.

Kind regards,

Western Forestry Co-op

