

## **The Forestry Company**

To whom it may concern,

I work as an operations administrator in The Forestry Company. Our head office is based in Cork and we have foresters all around the country.

I wish to express my support of the proposed changes in the FAC Bill.

The Forestry Industry is in crisis. The long delays to issuing licences due to the Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC) has caused significant difficulties and endangers my own job, those of our contractors and many more within rural Ireland.

At the present rate at which appeals are being processed it will take 15 months to clear the backlog and the rate of new appeals continues to grow. It is also worth noting that the vast majority of appeals are lodged by a small handful of individuals and target forestry policy generally rather than any specific projects.

This issue is severely hindering forestry activity, an industry that is fast growing which provides rural jobs, contributes to climate action, facilitates tourism and recreation, produces technologically advanced timber and biofuel products, makes a €2.3 billion contribution to the Irish economy and supports 12,000 jobs.

It is vital that the FAC is reformed to make it fit for purpose.

The passing of the FAC Bill is critical for the survival of my job, and the survival of the Forestry Industry as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

The Forestry Company