

## **The Forestry Company**

To whom it may concern,

I work as Office Manager for The Forestry Company. I am based in Cork however our forestry work is based throughout Ireland. We employ seven foresters, and we have engaged more than 40 subcontractors, 6 Harvesters contractors this year alone to carry out our work in rural Ireland. All of these jobs are at risk.

### **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 my contractors and many more within rural Ireland. It is even questioning the viability of our company and the jobs of the 10 direct employees.

At the present rate at which appeals are being processed by FAC of 20 per month, it will take 15 months to clear the backlog and the rate of new appeals continues to grow it will take years to process all the appeals. 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 project.

This issue is severely hindering forestry activity an industry that is fast growing, green industry 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. Our Foresters cannot work unless the Forest Service do their job and FAC are able to do theirs in a timely manner. Which is not the case at present.

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

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

Yours sincerely

The Forestry Company,