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Lord Deben  
Chair  
Committee on Climate Change  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
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4 February 2020

Dear Lord Deben

I am writing to thank the Committee for its 2019 statutory report on Scotland's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, published on 17 December.

I agree with the challenge the progress report sets for Scotland – we must walk the walk and adopt policies that make our emissions targets a reality. While the global climate emergency and a Green New Deal for Scotland are already at the centre of our Programme for Government, we recognise that even more will need to be done for Scotland to reach net-zero emissions by 2045. That is why we will be bringing forward an update to our Climate Change Plan to reflect the new targets by the end of April this year. We are considering the Committee's report carefully as we update the Plan, to ensure the pace of action reflects the increased overall target ambition under the new Climate Change Act.

The Committee's report also recognises that Scotland cannot deliver net-zero emissions by 2045 through devolved policy alone. In this regard, I welcome your conclusion that the UK Government must "step up and match Scottish policy ambition in areas where key powers are reserved.", and the identification of specific actions required. The Scottish Government has written to the UK Government on several occasions to call for such action.

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The Scottish Government is committed to the Paris Agreement and, in line with this, our 2019 Climate Change Act increases Scotland's domestic emissions reduction targets while ensuring a fair and just transition. In relation to the new 2030 target to reduce emissions by 75%, I note the findings of the Committee's progress report that this is both highly ambitious and will be extremely challenging to meet. As noted in your report, this target exceeds the level set out in the Committee's initial May 2019 advice on an interim target pathway to net-zero by 2045. To ensure future considerations around meeting Scottish targets continue to be informed by the best evidence, I would like to request the Committee's further expert advice on the 2030 emissions reduction target for Scotland. In this regard, I welcome the intention set out in your progress report for this advice to be provided as part of the Committee's forthcoming report on the UK-wide pathway to net-zero emissions, and will look forward to receiving this in September.

When Scotland welcomes the world to COP26 in November, we will have a very strong message to share with our international partners. Not only can we demonstrate that deep cuts in emissions are possible while growing the economy, but that we have an ambitious approach for maintaining momentum and ending our contribution to climate change entirely within one generation. I look forward to the important contribution of the Committee over this crucial period.

Yours sincerely,



**Roseanna Cunningham**

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