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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 ISP

18 January 2024

Dear Edward

Further to my letter on 15th December regarding the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill, I am writing to share the draft Circular Economy and Waste Route Map with the Committee and to let you know that I am launching a second consultation on the Route Map today.

The Scottish Government has a clear objective to deliver a circular economy in Scotland, as part of our collective efforts to address the climate emergency and nature crises. The Route Map is a key part of this effort.

Over the past ten years, the total amount of waste going to landfill in Scotland has dropped by over a third, with the most recent official statistics showing that Scotland met its 2025 target to reduce all waste by 15%.

[Link: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/waste-data-for-scotland/>]

The Route Map sets out priority actions to deliver more sustainable use of our resources across the waste hierarchy, and lays the foundations for how we will deliver our system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland's circular economy from now to 2030.

As you will be aware, we consulted on a wide range of initial proposals for the Route Map in 2022, alongside the consultation on proposals for a Circular Economy Bill. The draft Route Map reflects the feedback from these consultations, and identifies a number of priority actions to drive progress across the waste hierarchy.

Its strategic approach and actions are complemented by provisions in the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill, and in some places are dependent on enabling powers flowing from the Bill if passed. The interaction between the Bill and the Route Map is set out in further detail in the draft Route Map document, and reflects the evidence I gave to the Committee on Tuesday 5th December. I would ask the Committee to note that there are also a number of non-

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legislative proposals within the Route Map, regarding areas we discussed on 5th December. This includes measures to embed circular practices within the construction sector, and support businesses in Scotland to reduce waste and maximise recycling.

To meet our statutory obligations under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, we are also consulting on an Environmental Report, which sets out the potential cumulative environmental effects from the Route Map.

Responses received to this second consultation, will inform whether any further changes to the Route Map are required. Subject to the level of feedback received, I hope to confirm the final Route Map as soon as practicable later in 2024.

The draft Route Map consultation document, alongside its supporting documents, is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781835215623>

I hope that the Committee finds this information useful.

Kind regards

LORNA SLATER

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