Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

4 September 2019

Dear Colleague,

PROTECTING SCOTLAND'S FUTURE
The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20

This year's Programme for Government puts health, prosperity and wellbeing at its heart, and reinforces Scotland's place as a dynamic, open, innovative economy.

In the last 12 months we have made important progress in creating a better and fairer country and this year's Programme for Government builds on that record.

Earlier this year, the First Minister acknowledged that Scotland – like the rest of the world – faces a climate emergency. We are now committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest – earlier than any other UK nation.

This year's Programme for Government contains measures which will reduce emissions while supporting sustainable and inclusive growth. Rural Scotland, its communities and our land and natural assets have a key role to play in helping to achieve this.

I hope you will take the time to read the Programme for Government at:
https://www.gov.scot/programme-for-government/

Measures that might be of interest to you and your members/supporters include:

- Invest an additional £1 million to secure vital jobs in coastal communities
- Modernisation of the Scottish inshore fisheries fleet, investing a further £1.5million in inshore technologies.

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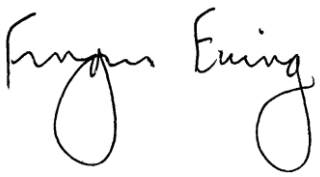
- Establishing a farmed shellfish working group.
- Supporting the sustainability of the aquaculture sector.
- Promoting the aquaculture sector as an attractive career choice, including the development of the Women in Scottish Aquaculture Initiative.

I hope there are some commitments which you will be able to support publicly – we would of course welcome your engagement in their development and delivery. We have attempted to set out a programme which will help address the challenges of the future, particularly for some key sectors in the rural economy, but also create opportunities to make a difference for years to come.

However, alongside these crucial steps, we will continue to plan for the possibility of a 'no deal' Brexit which as we all now know would be devastating to Scotland's rural economy. As long as this remains a risk, the Scottish Government and I, as Rural Economy Secretary, will work as hard as we can to mitigate the impact on families, communities and businesses across the country.

Yours Sincerely,



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