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William Hamilton
Zero Waste Delivery
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29 October 2015

Dear Mr Hamilton

MAKING THINGS LAST

Thank you for inviting The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland to respond to *Making things last: Consultation on creating a more circular economy in Scotland*.

Deposit Return System

We urge the Scottish Government to introduce a deposit return system (DRS) for glass, metal and plastic drinks containers as soon as possible, rather than merely to "explore the issues raised in the call for evidence on a DRS for Scotland" as proposed in the consultation document.

This is the focus of our current *Have You Got The Bottle?* campaign (please see attached briefing), which is supported by the Marine Conservation Society, the Community Resources Network Scotland, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Spokes (the Lothian Cycle Campaign), Surfers Against Sewage and WWF Scotland. Evidence from elsewhere in the world shows that a DRS would reduce litter in the countryside, an issue of great concern to many of our members. It would also tackle climate change and boost recycling rates, as well as contributing to the circular economy.

General Comments

We welcome the Scottish Government's interest in developing a circular economy and its determination to take a leading international role in promoting the concept. There are potentially major benefits for the environment and society from a circular economy, as long as it seeks to achieve substantial overall reductions in the volume of materials consumed.

However, these benefits will only be achieved if the Scottish Government takes a more comprehensive approach than that set out in the consultation document. In particular:

- The main aim should be to reduce the impact of the economy on natural resources

- Our material, land, carbon and water footprints should be consistently measured
- The concept should be comprehensively applied to all areas of the economy and across all departments of Government

The document appears to be largely shaped by the priorities of waste management and reduction. The circular economy concept should however apply across all relevant policy areas, including energy, natural resources, the built environment and agriculture. We would like to see a clear commitment to achieve an overall reduction in the consumption of natural resources.

The document refers in Paragraph 10 to the existing linear economic model as “take, make and dispose”. However, this misses out the important “use” stage, which needs to be extended by making higher quality goods and repairing them.

The circular economy approach is an opportunity to align business and environmental benefits, but much of the argument in the consultation document seems to be limited to the former. The approach should on the other hand be used to create broader public understanding of how our economic prosperity depends on natural resources and ecosystem services, and of the need to protect and nurture these.

Please contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mayhew". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

John Mayhew
Director