

An Open Letter to
Members of the Scottish National Party
at its Annual Conference in Aviemore on 26 October 2007
from the Chairman of VIEWS OF SCOTLAND

Dear Member

Wind power and the environment

The Scottish Government inherited a misguided renewable energy policy with an excessive reliance on wind-power. This still threatens many areas of the country with environmental, economic and scenic slaughter – the bandwagon rumbles on out of control.

Wind power proposals already built or in the planning system would meet Scotland's entire 40 per cent renewables target more than twice over but the number of planning applications continues to rise. As guidelines presume in favour of consent, few are turned down.

At the same time, industry claims on CO₂ savings are coming under attack. Earlier this month, the Advertising Standards Authority ruled that the British Wind Energy Association's ubiquitous emissions reduction claims breached ASA rules on substantiation, truthfulness and scientific acceptance. The BWEA has promised to clean up its act.

(www.asa.org.uk/asa/adjudications/Public/TF_ADJ_43298.htm)

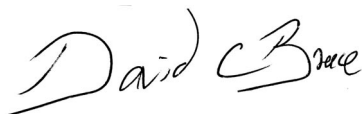
In Scotland, where many sites are being built on or planned for peatlands, the aggressive drainage needed to erect wind turbines on these soils will ensure the release over time of so much CO₂ that any savings that the project might make will be severely reduced. They could even be negative over the site's operational life. Please take a few minutes to read our briefing paper, *Carbon savings and wind power on Lewis* (see our conference stall or web site).

Ministers predict a 'crucial role' for wind power in Scotland's new energy strategy but any minor contribution it might make to economic development will be at an insupportable environmental cost.

We call on you, and everyone who values our unique rural environment, to demand an end to the relentless industrialisation of rural Scotland. Any honest audit predicts derisory CO₂ saving and a threat to the amenity and tourism on which many rural communities depend.

The only beneficiaries will be the electricity supply companies whose appetite for lucrative wind power subsidies is inexhaustible.

Yours sincerely



David Bruce