**Suggested points to raise with your MSPs**

Dear [MSP],

I am writing to ask you to vote in favour of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn Bill at Stage One, so that it can proceed to the next stage of parliamentary scrutiny.

The Bill’s proposal to introduce a licensing scheme for grouse shooting follows long standing concerns about the illegal killing of birds of prey including golden eagles. Research shows a strong link between wildlife crime and this form of land management. We welcome Scottish Government proposals to licence grouse shooting as an effective deterrent to wildlife crime. Licensing both a named individual in control of the sporting rights and the land area over which grouse shooting takes place must be accompanied by a meaningful deterrent to illegal behaviours. I agree that the grouse moor licence and permission to shoot grouse should be withdrawn, where wildlife crimes are confirmed by Police Scotland and NatureScot, to help end the continued persecution of birds of prey.

The proposal to introduce a licensing scheme for muirburn is needed due to outdated regulation dating back to the late 1940s to encourage agricultural improvement in the post WW II era. There is also poor compliance with best practice standards in some places, as well as increased risks of wildfire threatening people and wildlife. I agree that a precautionary approach to reduce burning of peatlands and thereby to improve the condition of our degraded carbon stores makes sense if we are to reach Scottish Government Net Zero targets and to tackle climate change.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

**Suggested letter to newspapers**

Dear Editor,

I am writing to raise awareness of a vote facing our local MSPs in the coming weeks: the Wildlife Management and Muirburn Bill. This Bill is essential if we are to end the illegal killing of birds of prey and protect our precious peatlands.

The Bill’s proposal to introduce a licensing scheme for grouse shooting follows long standing concerns about the link between wildlife crime and estates managed for shooting. The Bill presents MSPs with an opportunity to tackle what has been poor and outdated regulation.

By removing a grouse shooting licence, where wildlife crimes are confirmed, we can help end the continued persecution of birds of prey – something that shames all of us in Scotland.

As for the proposal to introduce a licensing scheme for muirburn – this is also needed due to weak regulation. Muirburn requires extreme care, and a system of licences is reasonable for such a high-risk activity. Improving the condition of our degraded peatlands makes sense if we are to reach Net Zero as they are a potential source of carbon.

I urge other readers to contact their MSPs to find out where they stand on these vital issues. Scotland is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and we are in a climate crisis. MSPs must vote to allow the Wildlife Bill to proceed, or else we do not deserve our reputation as a nation of wildlife lovers.

Yours sincerely

[Name]