



Mr Gordon Watson
Chief Executive
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
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Dear Mr Watson,

As a former resident of 20 years and former mountain rescue team member in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, I am deeply passionate about the Park's natural beauty.

I am also passionate about Scotland's future and the need for investment and innovation to drive sustainable growth in harmony with the conservation of nature. This is especially true in the Scottish salmon farming sector.

It is that context that I am writing regarding Planning Application 2021/0357/DET at Beinn Reithe Loch Long, submitted by Loch Long Salmon. The outcome of this application is, of course, a decision for the National Park but I felt it important to express my support for the project.

The current economic situation faced by many families across Scotland and supply issues worsened by conflict in Ukraine demonstrate that food security is not just an issue faced by the most marginalised; it is an issue that increasingly affects a broader section of the population.

Scotland needs to become more competitive with its global counterparts in sustainable, high-yield, energy efficient food production to face the challenges of coming decades. The introduction of proven, innovative technology will be critical to achieving this.

The installation by Loch Long Salmon of Scotland's first semi-closed salmon farming system, the likes of which have been used with success in Norway and other countries, would result in a significant uplift in production capacity compared to what a conventional salmon farm could yield and for a reduced environmental impact.

Furthermore, the system would eliminate sea lice and impact on other marine animals, and the collection and reuse of waste from the farm would contribute to Scotland's Circular Economy.

Given the significance of salmon both from a nutritional perspective and its status as having the lowest carbon footprint of farmed meat, the National Park should be proud to be at the forefront of a transformational change in Scotland's salmon industry.

I'm also aware of the challenges faced by Scotland's rural communities and of the boost that this project would provide local residents in terms of job creation, a community-led fund, supply chain opportunities and the commitment to protect the local environment.

Conservation rather than preservation is surely the key to how National Parks balance visual impact with the potential social and economic benefits of any project, especially one that could help deliver far reaching and meaningful environmental benefit to one of Scotland's most important coastal industries.

I urge you to consider the broader implications of the decision regarding this application and would be very happy to talk further.

Yours sincerely,



Fergus Ewing MSP
Member of Scottish Parliament for Inverness and Nairn

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