

PE1383/N

Peter Batten and Denise Lloyd Letter of 16 February 2013

Dear Mr Stewart

As Highland regional residents, we write in support of the John Muir Trust's petition PE1383 "Better protection for wild land", which we understand is being considered further at the Public Petitions Committee meeting on 19 February 2013.

We note the history of this petition, outlined in Helen McDade's letter of 29 January 2013 on behalf of JMT, the recent public opinion research referred to therein, and the considerable delay in presentation of SNH's mapping of wild land for which we understand the PPC is waiting.

JMT's letter of 29 January also refers to the planning application for a wind farm at Dalnessie, Lairg which was considered by Highland Council this week. Councillors voted to object to this application contrary to the recommendation of their officials; a difference of opinion about the interpretation of national wild land policy seems to have played a significant part in this sequence of events. You may be aware that Highland Council objected at the same meeting to a second wind farm application at Glenmorie, Ardgay, again contrary to officials' recommendation; this application includes a turbine within a mile of the summit of a Corbett - far closer to a Munro or Corbett summit than any wind farm to date.

The BBC News website subsequently reported that Highland Council is writing to the Scottish Government urging the adoption of SNH's proposals to protect wild land www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-21447363. If the PPC wishes to request a copy of this letter, we would suggest approaching isobel.mccallum.clr@highland.gov.uk who chairs the North Planning Applications Committee.

We would be grateful for anything your committee can go do to progress this matter with the Scottish Government and SNH and to promote enhanced protection for wild land in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

Peter Batten & Denise Lloyd