

PE1722/A

Maree Todd MSP submission of 26 June 2019

Petitions Committee Consideration of "Islands Act" Petition, 27 June 2019

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Highland and Island MSP regarding six community organisations which collectively represent the communities of Mull, Iona and Ulva (Iona and Mull Community Councils, Mull and Iona Community Trust, South West Mull and Iona Development, Mull and Iona Ferry Committee and Tobermory Harbour Association).

The petition under consideration by the Public Petition Committee on Thursday 27th June, calls on the Scottish Parliament to island-proof transport infrastructure to ensure that public bodies do not charge for parking in car parks at island ferry ports, which are essential lifeline services, and any proposed island parking charges are subject to rigorous impact assessment.

The Scottish Government is committed through its flagship Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 to empower island communities and 'island proof' decision making, including putting local experience and expertise of the unique challenges faced by each island at the heart of any significant decisions.

The decision by the local authority to impose steep parking charges on car parks essential for ferry users seems to fly in the face of that.

I support this Petition and all aspects of the campaign to make Argyll and Bute Council follow a proper process that is respectful of the Islands Act.