



EcoQuakers Ireland  
The Religious Society of Friends  
Quaker House  
Stocking Lane  
Dublin  
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Office of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment  
29-31 Adelaide Road  
Dublin D02 X285

March 8, 2019

Dear Minister Bruton,

We are writing to add a Quaker voice to the chorus of concerned voices urging Government to take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gases. Our increased power over nature must be used responsibly, with reverence for life and the splendour of the Earth.

Few of our political leaders are taking the move to climate stability seriously – instead, change is being led from the bottom up. Given the slowness of Ireland's response to carbon emission reduction targets, the abject failure to meet our international commitments, the rapid loss of biodiversity, and increased extreme weather events, it is crucial that we make an urgent and definitive transition to low carbon systems.

We are much encouraged by your statement ( 18 January 2019) that policy makers must ensure people can have trust in the information they are getting, that there is a pathway they can follow and that they will get support along the way.

Many Irish people are intent on changing how we live, how we eat, and what we buy. Our young people earnestly remind us of our responsibility to them and to future generations. Huge numbers of citizens do understand what is at stake and stand firmly in support of climate action and climate justice. But the changes an individual can make depend on the support of significant policy shifts and public education. We have little choice in the fuels we use. We have no real supports for community energy and little access to renewable energy sources. We feel powerless because most carbon emissions are produced by transport, agriculture and industrial processes that are outside our control. Thus – in addition to the bottom-up work being done all around these islands– we turn to you as our elected representative and say that we urgently need cross-party policy, planning and real leadership to make a meaningful transition to a sustainable society.

Other issues such as Brexit, housing, or the economy understandably vie for attention. However, to adequately address the threat of climate change we need action that is proportionate to the risks involved across all levels of governance. It is not all about us - marginalised communities of the world are already bearing a disproportionate burden of anthropogenic climate change. The scientific consensus is that immediate action is required to prevent tipping point scenarios that are irreversible, and climate advisers estimate that Ireland could be fined up to €600m for failing to meet our targets by the end of 2020. This is embarrassing and immoral in an era when staying within our planet's life-support systems is the major challenge of our time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Bloomfield".

Richard Bloomfield (Convener), EcoQuakers Ireland  
A Committee of The Religious Society of Friends in Ireland