

Example letter

Dear [Candidate Name],

My name is Hamish Watson and I am a farmer at Lunamont farm, near Montrose. I am writing to you today in relation to future Scottish law and policies on agriculture, the production of food, fibre and fuel and land use in general.

These topics are very important to me, because I am well aware of the contributions of many farming practices to the biodiversity and climate crises and we at Lunamont farm are working hard to farm in tandem with nature and our community.

As small-scale agroecological farmers, we provide many benefits for the environment and the community. For example, we sell fresh vegetables and meat from our rare breed pigs through a local box scheme and at two local farm shops, we grow a wide range of crops and thereby contribute to agrobiodiversity, we create habitats for biodiversity and our careful soil management helps carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. Also, we employ two people and provide regular opportunities for training and education for students at Montrose Academy.

Yet, the financial rewards for the public benefits that we provide and the hard and honest work that we put in are small and we often do not feel supported by Scottish regulations relevant to the production of food, fuel and fibre and land use.

The next parliament term provides important opportunities to transition the food and land-use system in Scotland to a system that produces good food, fuel and fibre, protects and enhances biodiversity and helps address the climate crisis.

I ask you to pledge to value agroecological farmers, crofters, growers and foresters, reform farm support payments to make them more accessible, build local infrastructures in support of local food production and create inclusive policies with meaningful opportunities for participation by agroecological landworkers.

Please respond to my letter to confirm your commitment to these matters.

I would also like to discuss these topics in more detail after the elections and I would like to invite you to Lunamont farm to see our work first-hand.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]