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**Jim Fairlie**  
**Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands**  
**Scottish Government**

**27 May 2026**

**Dear Minister,**

I am writing on behalf of Scottish Environment LINK to congratulate you on your reappointment to government as Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands. We look forward to continuing to work with you at this important time for Scotland's rural and coastal communities and agricultural sector.

Scottish Environment LINK brings together over 50 environmental organisations, representing a broad coalition of expertise and collectively the support of over half a million people across Scotland. We are keen to support you in delivering Scotland's ambitions for sustainable rural development, resilient agriculture, and improved connectivity.

### **Sustainable agriculture**

Farmers and crofters play a crucial role in delivering Scotland's environmental ambitions alongside food production. LINK members strongly support increased investment in nature and climate friendly farming.

We welcome the SNP manifesto commitments to develop support frameworks that reward environmental outcomes, including through whole farm plans and targeted funding, and wish to work productively with you to deliver this. However, we remain concerned about the pace of change outlined in current plans. Accelerating the transition will be essential to ensure that Scotland's agricultural sector is resilient to climate impacts while contributing to biodiversity recovery. LINK members were grateful for your personal engagement in the last parliamentary term and look forward to this continuing over the coming years.

### **Marine environment and fisheries management**

Scotland's marine environment is fundamental to the health of coastal communities, biodiversity and sustainable fisheries. Healthy seas are essential to the long-term resilience of fishing communities and the wider rural economy. We are concerned about the continued delays to the introduction of fisheries management measures for inshore Marine Protected Areas and Priority Marine Features. Many inshore MPAs were designated more than a decade ago but still lack the protections needed to prevent damage from activities such as bottom trawling and dredging. We are keen to see early progress in this parliamentary session to ensure these sites are effectively managed and capable of supporting ecological recovery alongside sustainable fisheries.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the near future to discuss these priorities and how we can work together to deliver meaningful progress for Scotland's rural and coastal environments and communities.

Once again, congratulations on your reappointment, and we look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,  
Deborah Long

Chief Executive  
Scottish Environment LINK



**Scottish Environment LINK** the voice for Scotland's environment

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