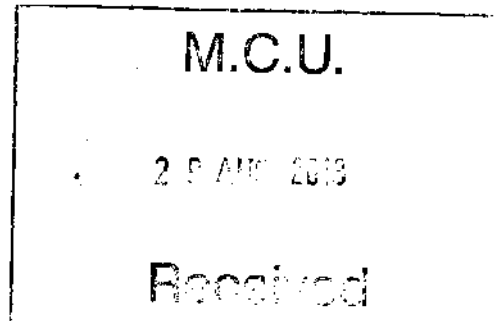




27 August 2013

Fergus Ewing MSP  
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG



Dear Fergus,

As you know, we have some interesting opportunities to generate significant economic development in the Canonbie area through the extraction of hydrocarbons (coal and gas), and look to use this competitive energy to attract downstream activity to an area which desperately needs appropriate economic development and jobs.

This complex and highly sensitive ambition must ensure that protection of the environment is paramount and, to this end, we are clear on the fact that we will not allow anyone to extract hydrocarbons on our land until we are fully satisfied such parties are wholly reliable – environmentally, technically and financially.

We are committed to ensuring we fully engage with the communities in which we live; making sure they are fully consulted and their concerns listened to through all stages of the projects. I hope that through our engagement at Glenmuckloch, we have earned your confidence that these are not empty words.

It is therefore important that we don't let the politics of Land Reform further complicate the debate; otherwise we may effectively lock ourselves out of some of these economically important options.

Recent engagement with the local community by Joan McAlpine as a local MSP has unfortunately sought to introduce a political Land Reform dimension into an already delicate and sensitive debate which is not helpful.

I would very much welcome the chance to sit down with yourself and Joan McAlpine to assess how we have engaged with the local community on the potential of these opportunities and discuss what further steps might be appropriate, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JG', written over the word 'sincerely'.

John Glen  
Chief Executive