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Tuesday 8 February 2022 17:26  
CARBON BUDGET CONSULTATION  
Public consultation on carbon budgets - Comhairliúchán poiblí ar bhuiséid charbóin

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A chairde,

As a concerned citizen aware for many years of the enormous dangers of the growing climate crisis, I would like to urge the government to adopt more ambitious carbon budgets than those proposed in the consultation so as to achieve targets of overall annual emission reductions of 7.6% to 2030. I understand very well that the proposals will involve very radical changes in many aspects of our lives and that there will be many voices calling for reduced ambition; but I believe it is essential to emphasise to the public and to interest groups that the reason we have to be so ambitious now is because we neglected any meaningful climate action in the past ten years.

Ireland is a wealthy country and it is essential that the wealthiest sectors and individuals should make the greatest changes. For example, one of the greatest factors in the continuing rise of transport emissions are the hugely increased sales, year by year, of high emitting SUVs. These should be taxed severely and the message about their damage to all our health in air pollution should also be emphasised. Equally, it is essential that reduction in total animal numbers in the dairy and beef sectors should come from those who have the largest and most profitable herds today; and of course, many other measures in agriculture, such as replacing monoculture grass with clover and other plants that reduce greatly the need for fertiliser are taken. Barriers to offshore wind farms should be tackled, Ireland's hydrogen production has to be expedited, and solar farms as well as anaerobic digesters are urgently needed as part of the solution. Today's welcome announcement of a major retrofit programme has to be highly publicised and implemented too.

I understand why some measures that will follow the carbon budgets will take a few years to gather momentum; but it is crucial not to delay the greatest reductions to the second half of the decade. We need to play our part at long last in urgently stabilising the growth in emissions that are leading to disaster for every generation alive today.

Beir bua,  
[REDACTED]