202 Blackthorn Rise
Larne
Co Antrim
BT40 2NB

14th October 2015

RE: Proposed NIRO Closure

Dear Sir,

Flux Energy Ltd were incorporated in 2014, with much of their work centred around the renewables industry in Northern Ireland. The NI Renewables Industry has provided stability to our economy, by providing job opportunities, at a time when other industries have been in steady decline. Based on Mr Bell's assurances to the industry in July 2015, Flux Energy took on additional staff and committed substantial investment. The proposed early closure to the NIRO poses significant risk to our business model, and will likely force us to make many staff redundant.

Onshore wind has made a very significant contribution to delivering decarbonisation to date and had been moving towards a position of being independent of subsidies. Brutally cutting subsidies now will effectively destroy the onshore sector at a critical time in its development. This makes no environmental or economic sense, just as decarbonisation targets are about to be missed and we are approaching the Paris Climate Change Summit.

Mr Bell's argument for closing the NIRO closure is flawed from the outset. He claims that the early closure will align us with GB, however this is not the case. GB projects can avail of the FIT scheme, whereas Northern Ireland has no alternative available. £5 on an average customer's electricity bill is a small price to pay for sustainable energy, and a future for our next generation. If given the facts, I strongly believe the majority of Northern Ireland consumers would welcome this £5 increase. Fossil fuels still have subsidies in the form of tax breaks of over £400 per household according to the IMF, making the £5 increase fairly insignificant. It should also be pointed out that the £5 increase is a worst case assumption, and in reality is likely to be closer to £3.

On behalf of Flux Energy, I would like to make it clear that I oppose the decision to close the NIRO early. I wold like to make the following suggestions to improve the current situation:

1. The proposed eligibility date for grace for agricultural scale wind turbines (250kw or less) is extended from Sept 2015 to April 2016
2. A support mechanism is put in place post April 2016 which is currently available for all other regions of the UK except Northern Ireland.

Regards

Kris Perry
Director