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Mairi McAllan MSP
Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
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23 June 2022

Dear Mairi,

Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill

Thank you for your time on Tuesday with regards to the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill.

I am grateful for your consideration of this matter, and for that of your officials. I would like to reiterate my offer to work constructively with you and your team to accommodate greater understanding and appreciation of the objectives we are trying to secure.

Precision breeding technologies, such as gene editing, offer great potential to help us address food security challenges, enhance the sustainability and resilience of agricultural systems throughout the world, and to adapt to the already encroaching impacts of climate change. We see it as central to the government's role to use all available tools to meet these challenges.

As I said during our meeting, I understand Defra officials have worked closely with Scottish Government colleagues and met regularly over the past 8 months, sharing our proposals and seeking to develop the policy in a coordinated way. I appreciate that things have moved at pace, and I would like to ensure we continue sharing information in a timely manner. I know that we have shared aspirations to reduce pesticide use, develop more resilient and nutritious crops, combat disease and meet the challenges of the climate emergency.

I look forward to talking with you and your team further in due course. The invitation to join the Bill remains open.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Churchill', written in a cursive style.

JO CHURCHILL MP