

Unified Statement of the Convention of Community Councils

"This Convention supported by over FIFTY COMMUNITY COUNCILS, collectively representing over 72,000 residents within The Highland Council area:

- *RECOGNISES the impact of climate change on our planet but OPPOSES an unjust and unnecessary industrialisation of The Highlands.*
- *CALLS for our elected members to URGENTLY support and protect our communities at NATIONAL level, given that community consultation is inadequate and LOCAL DEMOCRACY is being overridden, with decisions made by Community Councils and Highland Council consistently disregarded by the Scottish Government.*
- *CALLS upon the Scottish Government to undertake a PLANNING INQUIRY COMMISSION to address the whole cumulative impact of all major renewable energy infrastructure developments, including transmission, storage and generation with all ancillary infrastructure on our communities and landscape, rather than the salami sliced approach which has thus far been taken.*
- *CALLS for a PAUSE of all major applications, given the impact upon our communities, which may hasten depopulation in some areas until a clear NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY is in place and an ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT undertaken given that tourism is currently the backbone of The Highland economy."*