

Scottish Crofting Federation submission of 16 November 2022

PE1945/C: Ban the extraction of peat for horticulture and all growing media by 2023

Thank you for your invitation to respond to the petition PE1945: Ban the extraction and use of peat for horticulture and all growing media by 2023.

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) is the only organisation in Scotland dedicated to protecting and promoting the interests of crofters and the crofting community. The citizens petition calls for a legal ban on horticultural peat imports and sales and SCF agrees with petitioners' key asks to constitute a ban of peat for horticulture (imports and sales). Yet, the petition itself is more broadly formulated to cover "the extraction of peat, peat imports, exports, and sales" in general.

We call upon Scottish Parliament to ensure that if a legal ban on the use of peat is imposed, that such action is restricted to horticultural sales and imports and commercial extraction of peat for burning. Traditional rights of crofters to extract peat at small scale and for personal use must be safeguarded.