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Dear Ken,

Review of Outdoor Recreation Legislation Relating to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Thank you for the opportunity to input to the review of Access Legislation.

Investment in the development of a new, fit for purpose legal framework for access to the countryside is long overdue. Enhanced access arrangements would contribute directly to achieving a number of outcomes in the emerging Programme for Government relating to health and well-being, environmental sustainability and tourism development.

Following a stakeholder engagement session hosted by the National Outdoor Recreation Forum (NORF), I provided input to the submission from Graham Seymour (NORF Chair). I have since circulated this response to NIEL members and I am pleased to confirm that NIEL would like to endorse the NORF response.

We would also like to point out that much of the tension and conflict around access, can be attributed to the lack of a common regional vision for our land and landscapes. An overarching strategic policy, such as a land strategy incorporating principles to guide land use decisions, is required. This review of access should form part of a wider engagement with civic society about land and land related matters which over time will promote a more broadly based and inclusive approach to policy development and decision making.

We would appreciate the opportunity to contribute further as the Review of Access legislation is progressed.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Jonathan Bell
Projects and Policy Manager