



**Please respond to:**

**June Love  
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Ref: DSG(2010)C125

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Jim Mather MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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Dear Mr Mather

## **SCRABSTER HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT**

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group represents over 20 community organisations and was set up to oversee the activities of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd.

The DSG fully supports the efforts of the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership and the socio economic activity of the area is part of the group's remit as the Dounreay site progresses to closure.

Since 2008 when the Scrabster Harbour Trust announced their proposed plans to develop the harbour the DSG has taken a keen interest in its progress. The DSG notes that work is continuing to finalise the funding package for initial development. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) recently announced support to the project with approval of a £2M funding package.

The DSG is also aware that the funding applications to the Scottish Government and the Highlands & Islands Enterprise are under active consideration and decisions are expected soon.

The development of the harbour is a crucial part of the regeneration of an area which is looking to maximise the benefits that the renewables and oil & gas industries can bring. With the Pentland Firth on its doorstep the harbour is strategically located to service these industries. Caithness and North Sutherland also boast a skilled workforce with capacity to service these industries in many ways.

We are aware that you have recently visited Scrabster and that you are supportive of the development of the harbour. The timescales for developers is such that funding packages for phase 1 of the development of Scrabster need to be approved now.

We have a unique opportunity to establish the county at the centre of the marine renewable industry and Scrabster harbour is key to securing this new industry.

We are writing to ask that you urgently progress the funding applications required for phase 1 of the development to allow the work to begin.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

*Sent electronically without signature*

**Bob Earnshaw**  
DSG Chairman

cc. DSG members  
Scrabster Harbour Trust  
John Thurso MP  
Jamie Stone, MSP  
Sir Anthony Cleaver, CNSRP