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12 May 2014

Dear Minister

I write following the recent Parliamentary debate to seek your help in addressing wildlife crime in and around the Cairngorms National Park. The Cairngorms National Park Authority shares your determination to eradicate all wildlife crime including the illegal killing of birds of prey. The recent disappearance of a tagged sea eagle, coming at the same time as incidents elsewhere including the Black Isle, is causing people to express considerable and unprecedented levels of frustration and concern to us.

Wildlife crime, and specifically raptor persecution, is unacceptable anywhere in modern Scotland especially in and around one of our National Parks. The Cairngorms National Park is an internationally renowned tourism destination, with a reputation built on the quality of landscape and wildlife. The Cairngorms should be a place in which we celebrate our iconic raptor species, both for the part they play in our natural systems and for the opportunities they create to engage people in nature.

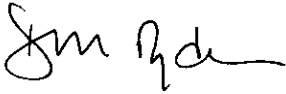
We are particularly frustrated therefore, that there is an unfortunate record of wildlife crime incidents and lost birds in parts of the eastern Cairngorms. This is a record that threatens to undermine the reputation of the National Park as a high quality wildlife tourism destination, and the reputation of the many estates across the Park delivering excellent conservation work and visitor experiences.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority has played our part with others in working to combat wildlife crime at both a regional and national level. However, I believe we need to take a lead in the Cairngorms to step up efforts and look at more specific action.

I would like to invite you to join me and representative organisations at a meeting in the Eastern Cairngorms to look at how all relevant organisations not only bring a halt to the record of illegal

raptor persecution, but develop partnerships to establish and celebrate the Cairngorms as one of the best places in Scotland for raptors and nature.

Yours sincerely

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

DUNCAN BRYDEN
Convener