

William Powell, A.M., Chairman Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24th August 2012

Dear Mr Powell,

Re Tan 8 Petition

I thank you and your colleagues for the opportunity to submit a petition to your committee. You and your staff have been extremely helpful and kept me informed at every stage of the process. The experience of presenting the petition to you and fellow Assembly Members on the steps of the Senedd, meeting with Assembly Members, and later meeting First Minister, Carwyn Jones was something that I will remember for ever.

As a result of my involvement as lead petitioner I was invited to submit evidence to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on the 12th January 2012 which I must admit I found a little stressful as I suffer from Parkinsons. I believe that in this meeting the opportunity for meaningful input and expansion was too controlled and restricted by the Chairman, consequently the evidence was rather limited in its detail.

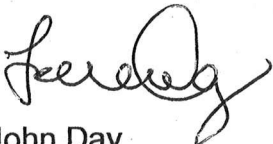
The Tan 8 petition, together with associated petitions, has helped to highlight the widespread and profound feeling of the people, protest meetings continue, and the recent announcement by the National Grid to site a massive sub station at Cefn Coch and to run high voltage cables to Lower Frankton has increased the resolve of the local residents. It's clear that the Welsh Assembly Government are not listening to common sense, history is repeating itself. Only 26 miles north west is the Tryweryn reservoir at Capel Cerig. The

village of Capel Celyn near Bala was flooded over 46 years ago to provide water for Liverpool. People were driven from their homes to build Tryweryn reservoir. Protests had been angry and widespread over a 9 year period, winning support from all political parties in Wales. Every Welsh MP apart from one voted against the scheme, but Liverpool Corporation, with the backing of English MPs, regardless of public opinion, drove through a parliamentary bill. The 800-acre valley was flooded and caused the destruction of a school, a post office, a chapel and cemetery. It flooded 12 farms and destroyed many peoples lives. New research even suggests that the flooding was not necessary. There are lessons to be learned from Tryweryn, why can't we learn from our previous mistakes? I am very disappointed and feel let down by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, as he is unwilling to accept the valid evidence. Furthermore he does not take the views of the people of Mid Wales into account and has reneged upon his earlier statements. During a meeting that I attended, along with five other representatives concerning wind farm developments, and in subsequent announcements he said: "The Welsh Government believes this level of development is unacceptable in view of its wider impacts on the local area." He stated: "My government would not support the construction of large pylons in Mid Wales." In changing his stance he has lost any respect and credibility he may have previously held.

I believe the process of being able to submit petitions on-line adds to the democratic process giving individuals and groups a direct opportunity to influence decision making. But as we see with the current wind farm issues in Mid Wales democracy is only possible if the Government and its leaders are willing to listen and act upon the will of the people. I accept that you and your Committee have done everything you can and I agree that the Petition should now be closed.

Once again, many thanks

Yours sincerely

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

John Day