

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you regarding the proposed Bill to End Whaling in Iceland. I understand that the Industrial Affairs Committee is currently accepting public comments from people irrespective of whether they are Icelandic citizens or from elsewhere.

I am a UK citizen living in the Shetland Isles with a deep love of Iceland. I first visited Iceland on my honeymoon in 1987 and, more recently, I have been undertaking field work on migrating Red Knot in Iceland annually in May.

The whaling industry, however, is one aspect of whaling that concerns me for several reasons:

Animal welfare - it has been demonstrated over the last couple of whaling seasons that there is no humane way to kill a whale and that the whalers have contravened Icelandic law under the Wild Animals Act.

Public opinion - recent opinion polls in Iceland have demonstrated that more Icelandic people are opposed to whaling than for it and that this proportion is growing.

Economic and business relations - I understand that there is no economic benefit of whaling to Iceland and, moreover, that whaling is having a detrimental effect on the economy. On the other hand, the whale watching industry does have economic benefits to Iceland with large numbers of tourists taking part in this.

Iceland is an amazing country and could be a world leader in marine protection but the whaling industry and lack of compliance with the International Whaling Commission is hindering Iceland from taking such a lead.

I can see no benefits whatever to Iceland and its people from whaling, only suffering to these amazing creatures whose very existence supports life on earth. I sincerely hope that the Industrial Affairs Committee will support this bill and thereby bring an end to whaling in Iceland for ever.

Kind regards

Carole Davis