



5 August 2003

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Dear Mr Muttitt

**Degrees of Capture: Universities, the Oil Industry and Climate Change**

Thank you very much for your letter of 29 July, and for sending me a copy of the above report. The report makes interesting reading and I will ensure that it is brought to the attention of Professor Wilson Sibbett, the Chair of the Scottish Science Advisory Committee (SSAC).

The SSAC is still quite a new body and to date our Committee have not held any in depth discussions on energy research in Scotland. The Committee does, however, have a keen interest in this area due to the creation of three Intermediary Technology Institutes (ITIs) in Scotland, one of which will focus on energy ([www.scottish-enterprise.com](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com)). Professor Sibbett and the Committee have been involved in a number of discussions in relation to the creation of the ITIs and we understand that renewable energies and related technologies will be a significant focus of the Energy Institute.

The Committee believe that there are many opportunities for Scottish scientists and engineers, based in both universities and industry, to lead the world in both basic and applied aspects of the science behind renewable technologies, and as such have welcomed the planned creation of the Energy ITI. The Committee also supports the exploitation of such technologies in Scotland as they believe that this will bring not just economic benefit to the country, but also considerable environmental and social benefits.

The Committee will continue to take an interest in the activities of the ITIs, which I believe will be established later in the year, and will certainly continue to support a continuing focus on renewable energy technologies.

Yours sincerely

**Avril Davidson**