The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Stephen Flynn MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism, and Transport
The Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Across rural Scotland, bridges keep our communities connected helping get local people to work, children to school, keep businesses running, and access for a wide range of services.

More and more of those bridges are in poor condition with several either closed or under threat of closure.

Moray alone has several bridges either closed or with significant concerns including Cloddach Bridge, Arthur's Bridge, Lee Bridge and the Spey Viaduct. But similar concerns are being raised across Scotland, including Aboyne, Rigg and Kirkcudbright Bridge.
As you will be aware these are not isolated issues. Highland Council has already said financial pressures mean some bridges may face "managed decline", which could lead to closures with communities expressing significant concern.

We know budgets are tight, but when a bridge closes people face long detours, extra costs and it damages local communities. Over time, that makes rural places harder to live in and adds to depopulation.

We are asking you to bring back a dedicated Rural Bridges Fund in the next Scottish budget so councils can apply to maintain, repair or replace important rural bridges before they reach closure.

This is a meaningful practical investment that helps protect vital communities.
We would be grateful if you would give this serious consideration and work with councils to find a way forward for all bridges under threat.

Yours sincerely,

The supporters of the Back Our Bridges campaign

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