Dear TD,

Next month, Community Gardens Ireland will be meeting with Government Ministers to ask for their support to double the numbers of allotments & community gardens in Ireland by 2025. In addition, Community Gardens Ireland are asking for changes to require local authorities to provide community growing spaces where clear demand is present.

Community growing spaces such as allotments and community gardens are proven to be helpful for biodiversity and as a good local climate action. There is ample evidence that they help with mental and physical health, community cohesion, reduce flooding risk, reduce food waste, and so much much.

Despite this, there are fewer allotments & community gardens in Ireland then there were 100 years ago. Ireland has fewer allotments & community gardens per capita compared to Denmark, Poland, Germany and other EU countries. There is currently no national policy on allotments & community gardens and the legislation supporting them is weak.

I urge you to strongly support the recommendations that Community Gardens Ireland presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government & Heritage in March 2022, also copied here <http://cgireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Community-Gardens-Ireland_Lets-Get-Growing.pdf>.

I also ask that you relay your support for these changes to enable more allotments & community gardens to Minister Peter Burke and Minister Malcolm Noonan.

Best regards,