

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála

(ABP Ref: 323699)

Subject: Objection to the Proposed Shancloon Windfarm

Dear Sir / Madam,

We wish to object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm (ABP Ref. 323699).

Our names are Andrew and Mary Boyd, and we have lived in Cloonascragh for 22 years. We live about 950 metres from the proposed development. What we love most about living here is the peace and quiet, the open countryside, and the closeness to nature.

Andrew is a keen fisherman, and one of our main concerns is the potential impact on water quality and fish life in the local Togher and Black Rivers. The Fisheries Board has recently done great work creating new spawning grounds in the Togher River, and this proposal could undo that progress. Any pollution or disturbance from peat removal, construction runoff, or drainage changes would have a hugely detrimental impact on fish and on the overall health of the rivers. It would also be a terrible loss for the local fishing community, many of whom depend on fishing for recreation and mental wellbeing.

We are also very concerned about the disturbance to wildlife in the area. We regularly see deer and occasionally eagles, which are wonderful to observe and are part of what makes this place so special. Large-scale construction, noise, and turbine operation will inevitably drive these animals away and damage their habitats.

We are deeply worried about the impact on local water systems and drainage, especially given the large amount of peat that would be removed and replaced with hard surfaces and concrete. This could alter the flow of water and increase the risk of flooding downstream.

This development would also devalue our property, and we believe our house would be a shadow flicker receptor. This is of particular concern because a member of our household has epilepsy, and shadow flicker can be a serious trigger.

We did speak to RWE, but we were very dissatisfied with how the conversation went. None of our concerns seemed to be taken seriously or answered properly.

We believe this is the wrong location for a windfarm. It will damage the rivers, the wildlife, and the peace and quiet that make this such a special place to live. We hope An Coimisiún Pleanála will listen to the people who live here and refuse permission for the Shancloon Windfarm.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew & Mary Boyd

Newvillage, Cloonascragh, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway