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To :
The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
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Subject: Objection to Planning Application – PAX07.323699

I am writing to formally object to the planning application reference number Case reference: PAX07.323699 concerning the proposed development at Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway.

I live in Bodane which is 2km south-east of the proposed development. I was born and reared here all my life. I am now 34 years of age and plan to build my own house next to my parents' house in Bodane. I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of the proposed wind farm on property values, as numerous studies have indicated that proximity to such developments can result in significant depreciation. In addition to economic concerns, I am aware of reports from other communities regarding adverse effects such as shadow flicker and persistent noise. These issues are particularly relevant to me, as I have a heightened sensitivity to light and noise as I experience traits associated with ADHD and symptoms of anxiety, which could be exacerbated by the environmental conditions created by the wind farm.

I have serious concerns for my family's health and wellbeing over the proposed Shancloon windfarm. Members of my family suffer from COPD and anxiety. Firstly, the construction over two years will impact us in a very negative way. The main construction entrance is approx. 1.5 km on our main road to Kilconly, a road we use every day to go to the local shop and the church and cemetery. This is a very narrow road; we will not be able to use this road as it is estimated for the construction duration there will be 120,000 truck movements of 1 every two minutes for two years. Additionally, I wish to raise concerns regarding the environmental and health impacts associated with the construction phase of the proposed development. The use of

aggregate fill can generate dust particles that, depending on their size and prevailing wind conditions, may travel distances ranging from 150 metres to over 1,200 kilometres. This poses a serious health risk, particularly to individuals with respiratory conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

The proposal includes the use of approximately 150–200 cubic metres of concrete per turbine base. It is important to note that concrete production is the third largest source of global carbon dioxide emissions. The manufacture of just one cubic metre of concrete requires approximately 2,775 megajoules of energy, the majority of which is derived from fossil fuels, particularly oil. It is estimated that each turbine base will require the equivalent of 89 barrels of oil, in addition to substantial quantities of steel.

These figures highlight the significant carbon footprint of the project and raise serious questions about its classification as a source of “green energy.”

The extraction of such a substantial volume of peat represents a significant and unnatural disruption to the local ecosystem. The removal of approximately 19,000 lorry loads of peat, to be replaced with an estimated 2,200 loads of concrete and approximately 217,000 tonnes of fill and aggregate material, raises serious environmental concerns.

This level of ground disturbance also prompts critical questions regarding water displacement. The area already experiences considerable flooding, particularly during the winter months. Further disruption to the natural water table and drainage patterns could exacerbate these issues, posing risks to both property and public safety.

Peatlands are one of the most efficient natural carbon sinks on the planet. Disturbing or removing peat releases large amounts of stored carbon dioxide which can offset or even exceed the carbon savings of proposed windfarm over its lifetime. Peatlands play a crucial role in regulating local water cycles. Their removal can lead to increased flooding and long-term changes in water quality with huge consequences for both people and wildlife. The displacement of the peat bog will have a detrimental effect on our wildlife. It is home to five different birds of prey, owls, bats, at least eight different types of butterflies, dragonflies, moths, hares, stoats, frogs and deer. And it is also home to the protected species, under both Irish law and the EU Birds Directive, the Hen Harrier. RWE has acknowledged this in Vol2, Chapter 10 ornithology section of their submission. We also have many wildflowers, mosses and beautiful wild orchids. During the winter months, October to March, the whooper swans migrate from Iceland and the brent geese from high-artic Canada. In our opinion the proposed Shanclon windfarm is right in their flight path as they make their way southward to Belclare turlough and Loughacket.

There is a beautiful scenic loop walk between Cloonaglasha and Bodane which we use every day. It is between 1km and 2km from proposed development, depending

on where you are on the loop. Lots of people enjoy this peaceful route on a daily or regular basis. It brings you through a quiet country bog road with traditional stone walls, peatlands and open skies. You can enjoy views of Castlehacket hill and Croagh Patrick in the distance. You can see local wildlife and hear birdsong. With the proposed development of 11 industrial wind turbines in the area, those peaceful and unspoilt views may soon be lost. The turbines of 180M high would dominate the skyline, bringing with them noise, construction traffic and long-term environmental impact. This loop walk is part of our lifestyle and mental wellbeing, and it will cause stress and anxiety for a lot of people if this development goes ahead.

In our next village of Cloonaglasha, there is a blessed well and a children's burial ground (A Cillin) It is located approx. 1km, beside the river, from proposed development site. In the event of flooding there is a risk the well and river would flood and the little stones which were placed over the infants could be displace. This burial ground holds deep significant for the villages of Cloonaglasha and Bodane as many families have stillborn babies interred there. My mother has an aunt interred in the burial ground. Any disturbance to this sacred ground, particularly through flooding or movement of headstones, would cause significant emotional distress within this community.

From the outset, we made our position clear to RWE representatives during their visit to our home—we do not support the development of wind farms in this locality. Since that initial interaction, we have received only two leaflets, both delivered during working hours when no one was available to discuss the matter in person. I attended all public meetings held in relation to the proposed wind farm development; however, representatives from RWE were not present at any of these events. RWE organised one single public meeting at the Ard Rí Hotel in Tuam, again during working hours, which I along with may others in the community were unable to attend due to professional commitments.

I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to give this objection the serious and thorough consideration it warrants. The concerns raised are substantial, well-founded, and reflect genuine community impact.

Yours Sincerely,

Clare Lynch