

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Objection to Shancloon Windfarm (ACP Ref: 323699)

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Fiona and Michael Lardner, wish to formally object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm development. We live in Bodane, Tuam, where Michael has lived all his life and Fiona for the past thirty years. We chose to build our home and raise our family here because of the quiet calmness of the countryside, the sense of community, and the safety of the local roads where our children and now our grandchildren can walk and play.

We are deeply concerned about the destruction of the bog and the serious impact this will have on the local ecosystem and wildlife. The boglands are an essential part of this landscape, supporting biodiversity and regulating local water systems. Removing or disturbing peat can lead to flooding and contamination of private wells, which many households, including ours, rely on.

We are also extremely worried about the potential noise from the turbines, the constant construction traffic, and the long-term loss of peace and quiet in this area. The proposed turbines are excessively high — far larger than anything suitable for a rural landscape such as this. We can already see the red lights from turbines in Moycullen, which are approximately 45 kilometres away, and the proposed turbines here would be even higher and far more visually intrusive. The visual and environmental impact would be devastating.

We are concerned too about the devaluation of local properties and the likely difficulty in obtaining planning permission in future. The development would also destroy the tranquillity and safety of our loop walk around the bog, which is regularly used by local people for exercise and recreation.

It is extremely disappointing that there has been no meaningful consultation with residents. RWE have not held a public meeting at a suitable time or location, despite repeated requests. Local people's views have not been considered, and there has been no genuine effort to engage with or address community concerns.

This proposal also goes against key environmental protections in the **Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028**, which aims to safeguard habitats, wildlife, and water systems. The removal of peat and disturbance of bogland are contrary to these policies and risk flooding and pollution. It also raises serious concerns under the **EU Habitats and Birds Directives**, as well as the **Aarhus Convention**, which protects the public's right to be properly informed and consulted on developments affecting their environment.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the Shancloon Windfarm.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona and Michael Lardner

Bodane, Tuam, Co Galway