

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
(An Bord Pleanála)

Re: Objection to Shancloon Windfarm – ACP Ref. 323699

Dear Sir / Madam,

We wish to lodge our objection to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm (ACP Ref. 323699). We, John and Ann O'Boyle, live in Cloonaglasha, Tuam, Co. Galway, less than 1 kilometre from the nearest proposed turbine.

John has lived here all his life, and together we have built our home and raised our family in this peaceful rural community. We love where we live — the tranquillity, the natural surroundings, the wildlife, and the sense of safety and belonging that comes with living in a small, close-knit area. This proposal would completely destroy that way of life.

We are deeply concerned about the height of the turbines, the noise, and the shadow flicker. At 180 metres tall, the turbines will dominate our landscape and turn a quiet, natural area into an industrial zone. The constant flicker and low-frequency noise will make it impossible to rest or enjoy peace in our own home. We are already struggling with sleeplessness, anxiety, and high blood pressure because of the worry and stress caused by this proposal. It has taken a serious toll on our mental health, and we feel powerless and ignored.

John is a farmer, and he is extremely worried about the impact the turbines and construction works will have on his livestock. The animals are highly sensitive to noise, vibration, and disturbance. Sudden sounds, flashing lights, and changes in routine can cause stress and affect their health and behaviour. Herding them will become much more difficult and dangerous if they are frightened or unsettled by the activity and noise. This adds further strain and worry for us as a farming family.

We also have serious concerns about road safety and disruption. The local roads around here are narrow and not designed for heavy construction traffic. Large lorries and machinery will cause congestion, damage road surfaces, and make daily travel hazardous for residents, farmers, walkers, and cyclists. This peaceful rural area will become a construction corridor for years.

We are also gravely concerned for the wildlife and environment. Cloonaglasha is home to a rich variety of species, including bats, birds, and other protected wildlife, as well as local livestock and horses kept on neighbouring land. The peatlands support a fragile ecosystem that cannot be replaced once destroyed. Our dark skies, which have always allowed us to stargaze and enjoy the peace of the countryside, will be lost forever to the glare of turbine lights.

We are worried about the spread of invasive plant species during the construction phase, which could be carried by machinery. The disturbance of peat and drainage systems could raise the water table and increase the risk of flooding, making our land wetter and harder to use.

The developers' conduct has caused enormous stress. We experienced significant pressure to allow access through our land — repeated visits, late-night calls, and even banging on our

windows. It was completely inappropriate and left us feeling intimidated and harassed. Despite asking many questions, we were given few answers and many empty promises.

The lack of proper public engagement is unacceptable. The developers held no real local consultation — just a meeting in Tuam during working hours, which many people could not attend. Only residents within 2 kilometres were notified, and the project was not advertised in the Tuam Herald. The people who will live with the consequences were given no fair opportunity to participate.

Our local loop walk around the village is popular with both residents and visitors who come to enjoy the peace, wildlife, and open views. It is part of what makes our community special. An industrial-scale development in this landscape would destroy that character completely.

We are not opposed to renewable energy, but it must be done sensitively and appropriately. There are far better options, such as solar energy on agricultural land, that do not destroy peatlands or threaten people's health, homes, and livelihoods.

For all of these reasons — including the effects on our mental health, John's farming and livestock, road safety and disruption, wildlife, property, and the lack of genuine consultation — we strongly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development.

Yours sincerely,
John & Ann O'Boyle
Cloonaglasha, Tuam,
Co. Galway