

**Submission from Louis O'Hara TD, Old Church Street, Athenry, Co Galway**

A chara,

I would like to make a submission in respect of the proposed Cooloo Windfarm SID (Case number: 323761).

I would firstly like to express concern with the absence of up-to-date statutory planning guidelines in relation to Wind Energy Developments. This development is of a very large scale with turbines of close to 200m high in close proximity to residential homes. The current guidelines are outdated and inappropriate for developments of this scale. I would ask that An Comisiún take this into consideration when making a determination on this application.

I would also like to express concern with the concentration of such developments across North and East County Galway. I do not believe that this high concentration is fair on local communities or is a balanced approach to planning development.

I would like to highlight concerns in relation to the public consultation carried out with the local community in relation to this development. It is imperative for developments of this nature that there is adequate consultation and engagement with community. It has been reported to me that some local residents were not informed and given an opportunity to take part in the consultation process and that concerns expressed as part of that process have not been taken into account as part of this planning application.

I understand that a large number of submissions have been made by members of the local community highlighting issues in relation to the scale of this development, the appropriateness of the location, effects on homes and the local community, public health, biodiversity and environmental matters. These are all considerations that An Comisiún must take into account, and I urge you to consider the potential impact of this development when making your determination.