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Co. Limerick
V35KR23
14 October 2025

To:
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Objection to Proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm

I wish to lodge my strong objection to the proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm, which will impact the townlands of Ballincurra, Ballinlee South, Ballingayroure, Ballinrea, Knockuregare, Ballinlee North, Carrigeen, and Camass South.

This development will have a deeply negative effect on the health and wellbeing of residents living in close proximity to the proposed turbines. My family includes a close relative with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), who is highly sensitive to noise, vibration, and visual disturbances. The introduction of large-scale turbines, producing continuous low-frequency noise and shadow flicker, poses a serious risk of sensory overload, anxiety, and sleep disruption. Such an environment would be distressing and harmful to individuals with autism and other neurodiverse conditions.

The proposal would also have broader implications for the mental health of the community. The area is currently defined by its peace, rural charm, and natural beauty. The constant visual presence and noise of industrial turbines would destroy this tranquility, contributing to stress, anxiety, and a loss of connection to the local landscape that residents value so deeply. This intrusion would effectively strip the community of its right to quiet enjoyment of their homes and environment.

The Ballinlee area forms part of the Golden Vale, one of Ireland's most scenic and agriculturally rich landscapes. The proposed turbines would permanently alter this landscape, dominating the skyline for many kilometres in all directions. The resulting visual intrusion would be entirely out of character with the surrounding rural environment and inconsistent with the objectives of the County Development Plan, which seeks to preserve scenic integrity and protect heritage landscapes from industrial-scale developments.

The environmental consequences of the proposal are also of serious concern. Construction and operation of the wind farm will lead to the destruction of woodland and hedgerow habitats that support many important species of birds, bats, and mammals, several of which are protected under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. The fragmentation of habitats and increased disturbance would have lasting ecological impacts, threatening the biodiversity of the area.

In addition, there is clear evidence that the presence of wind turbines can result in property devaluation for nearby homes, both due to their visual impact and the perception of noise and flicker disturbance. Residents stand to lose significant value in their properties through no fault of their own, suffering a financial loss that cannot be justified or offset by vague promises of community benefit.

The consultation process to date has been insufficient and fails to demonstrate genuine engagement with the people who will be most affected by this development. Large-scale renewable energy projects must not be imposed on rural communities without their consent and without due regard for the local social, health, and environmental consequences.

Finally, there appears to be little or no consideration of the cumulative visual and environmental impact of this proposal in conjunction with other energy developments in the wider region. Alternative forms of renewable energy generation — such as solar or smaller, community-led projects — could provide sustainable energy solutions without inflicting such irreversible damage on the landscape, environment, and community wellbeing.

For these reasons, including the serious risks to human health and mental wellbeing, the destruction of the Golden Vale landscape, loss of biodiversity, property devaluation, and the absence of meaningful community consultation, I strongly urge An Bord Pleanála to refuse permission for the Ballinlee Wind Farm. This project represents an unacceptable and disproportionate intrusion into a sensitive rural area and should not proceed in its current form.

Yours faithfully,

Claire O'Connor-Hornibrook