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The Secretary,  
An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902  
Case Reference: 323780

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the planning application for the construction of **17 wind turbines** at **Balinlee**. Although I recognise the importance of renewable energy, the scale and location of this development make it unsuitable for our area. My key objections are outlined below.

### **1. Excessive Scale and Landscape Impact**

The proposal for **17 turbines** represents a very large industrial development. Such a concentration of tall structures will dominate the landscape, drastically altering the rural character of Balinlee. The cumulative visual intrusion from so many turbines would be significant and irreversible.

### **2. Noise Impact from a Large Turbine Cluster**

A development of this size increases the likelihood of continuous low-frequency noise travelling across the area. With 17 turbines operating simultaneously, the risk of noise disturbance—particularly during night-time hours—is greatly magnified for nearby residents. The EIAR (Chapter 12 - Noise & Vibration) concludes no significant health effects, but provides limited receptor specific analysis for homes within approximately 2km and does not assess low frequency noise or amplitude modulation. This conflicts with the WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018), which link wind turbine noise to sleep disturbance and reduced quality of life. Independent baseline and post-construction monitoring, curtailment protocols and accessible community reporting are required.

### **3. Substantial Environmental and Wildlife Risks**

The installation of 17 turbines exposes local wildlife to increased hazards, including collision risks for birds and bats and disruption to habitats during construction. The environmental strain from such a large cluster of turbines requires far more comprehensive ecological assessment than has been presented.

### **4. Shadow Flicker Affecting a Wider Area**

The number of turbines increases the area affected by shadow flicker. With 17 rotating blades, many more properties may experience regular flicker events, causing disruption to daily life and reducing residential amenity.

### **5. Significant Impact on Residential Amenity and Property Values**

A development of this magnitude near homes can lead to a measurable decline in property values and diminish the peaceful enjoyment of private property. Residents would endure extensive visual, noise, and environmental impacts, with no guarantee of benefit to the local community.

### **6. Inadequate Consultation for a Project of This Size**

Given the scale of the proposal, residents expected a thorough and transparent consultation process. Many feel this has not occurred, and that concerns about the impact of 17 turbines have not been meaningfully addressed.

### **7. Lack of Evidence That Alternative Sites Were Considered**

Before approving such a large development, it is essential that more remote or less sensitive locations be fully explored. There is no clear evidence that alternative, more suitable sites have been investigated.

### **8. Impact on Future Planning Within 3km - Direct Effect on My Property**

The proposed 17 turbines will create a restrictive planning buffer of approximately **3 km**, within which future residential or agricultural development is highly unlikely to receive approval due to noise, shadow flicker, and setback constraints. As my home is located **within this 3 km radius**, this development would effectively block any future planning opportunities on my property. This is a significant and long-term loss of amenity and development potential, directly affecting my rights as a homeowner and landowner.

### **Conclusion**

For these reasons, I strongly urge the planning authority to reject the application for 17 wind turbines at Balinlee. The scale and intensity of the proposed development would have disproportionate and long-lasting negative impacts on residents, wildlife, and the landscape.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Yours faithfully,  
**John Murphy, Stephen Kelleher**