

Formal Submission – Objection to Proposed Wind Turbine Development in Bruff, Co. Limerick

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of **17 wind turbines** in the area of **Bruff, County Limerick**, under An Bord Pleanála case number **323780**. Let me begin by stating that **I am not opposed to wind energy**. I fully support Ireland's transition to renewable energy sources and recognize the vital role wind power plays in achieving climate goals. However, I believe that **the scale and concentration of this particular development is inappropriate** for the local area and raises serious concerns that must be addressed.

1. Environmental Impact

There is no public evidence that a **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** or **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** was carried out in accordance with **Directive 2001/42/EC**. The absence of these assessments may render the proposal non-compliant with EU law. Large-scale developments pose long-term risks to biodiversity, ecosystems, and rural heritage.

2. Noise Pollution

Wind turbine noise—especially low-frequency sound—has been shown to disrupt sleep, concentration, and wellbeing. Even within guideline limits, recent legal cases in Ireland have demonstrated that such noise can cause serious health issues for nearby residents.

3. Visual Impact

The construction of 17 industrial-scale turbines would dominate the skyline, alter the character of the landscape, and negatively affect tourism and rural enjoyment. This level of visual intrusion is incompatible with the natural setting of Bruff and surrounding townlands.

4. Road Network Disruption

The development will place significant pressure on local roads due to heavy machinery, transport of materials, and long-term service access. There is no clear plan for how this

will be managed, nor any assurance that resident safety and infrastructure will be protected.

5. Impact on Private Dwelling Planning Applications

Large wind turbine developments often restrict planning permissions for private housing nearby. This unfairly penalizes local residents and may reduce property values without justification.

6. Disruption to Local Farming and Succession

The placement and operation of turbines will interfere with farming operations and limit options for expanding agricultural facilities. This discourages younger generations from continuing farming traditions and undermines rural sustainability.

7. Loss of Future Housing Opportunities for Farming Families

Children of farming families may be unable to secure planning permission to build homes on inherited or adjacent land due to zoning and visual impact policies. This disrupts generational continuity and weakens the fabric of rural life.

8. Alternative Wind Energy Models

Recent innovations in wind energy demonstrate that **decentralized, community-integrated systems** are a viable and less disruptive alternative. For example, the **Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Polymer Research**, in collaboration with the **BBF Group**, has developed **lightweight, high-efficiency small wind turbines** that:

- Operate at low wind speeds (starting at 2.7 m/s),
- Achieve up to 2,500 watts output with 53% efficiency,
- Are quiet (around 40 decibels),
- And often do not require full planning permission.

These systems offer a **more sustainable and community-friendly approach** to renewable energy, aligning with both environmental goals and local interests.

Conclusion

I wish to emphasize again that **my objection is not against wind energy itself**, but rather against the **scale and concentration** of this particular project. I fully support the transition to renewable energy and recognize the importance of wind power in achieving Ireland's climate goals. However, I believe that developments of this magnitude must be carefully balanced with the needs of local communities, environmental preservation, and landscape integrity.

In light of the above concerns—and in recognition of national and EU legal frameworks governing sustainable development and community consultation—I respectfully request that this application be **refused**, or at minimum, be subjected to **full and transparent environmental and community impact reviews**.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,



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03 November 2025