

Patrick Barrett

Ballinlee

Bruff,

Co. Limerick

17/11/2025

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough St.

Dublin 1

Dear Sir / Madam,

We, the undersigned, are adult members of a family who grew up in **Ballinlee**, Co. Limerick. Although we now live outside the area, we maintain deep ties to the community, landscape, and heritage of our home place. Several of our close family members continue to reside in Ballinlee and would be directly affected by the proposed development.

We are writing to express our **strong objection** to the proposed 17-turbine wind farm at Bruff, Dromin, Athlacca, and Ballinlee.

This proposal presents serious and unacceptable risks to the environmental integrity, rural character, tourism value, heritage assets, and the health and wellbeing of residents.

The industrialisation of this rural region through 17 large turbines would irreversibly alter a landscape that is valued both locally and nationally for its natural beauty.

The area supports diverse habitats, including wetlands, hedgerows, farmland ecosystems, and riparian environments connected to the **Morning Star River**.

This river supports a healthy trout population prized by anglers and local families. Any disturbance arising from heavy construction, soil movement, drainage interference, or turbine foundations poses a risk to spawning grounds, water quality, and aquatic biodiversity.

This region is exceptionally rich in heritage. The proposed wind farm threatens the cultural fabric that defines the area.

Lough Gur

Only a short distance from the proposed turbine locations, **Lough Gur** is one of Ireland's most important archaeological and mythological landscapes. The area attracts thousands of visitors annually for its ancient ringforts, megalithic structures, storytelling traditions, and scenic walks.

Industrial turbine development anywhere within its broader visual and cultural catchment area is wholly inappropriate.

Ballygrennan Castle

The historic **Ballygrennan Castle**, a significant tower house integral to the region's late-medieval heritage, would face substantial visual intrusion. The character and setting of this protected structure are fundamentally incompatible with the presence of towering industrial turbines dominating the surrounding countryside.

Tourism in this region, although rural and relatively low-density, is a vital and growing contributor to the local economy. The proposed development would severely undermine this growth.

Key tourism assets that draw visitors include:

- **Lough Gur Heritage Centre and Archaeological Trails**
- **Ballygreenan Castle and other medieval sites**
- **The Morning Star River**, known for trout fishing
- Quiet walking and cycling routes, scenic roadways, and natural viewpoints

The visual, noise, and ecological disruption caused by 17 large-scale turbines would diminish the attractiveness of these destinations. Tourism relies on unspoiled landscapes, tranquillity, and authenticity—qualities incompatible with industrial turbine installations.

Local communities have been steadily developing tourism, recreational activities, and heritage interpretation. Approving this wind farm would close the door on future opportunities that could sustain the region far more effectively and respectfully than this proposed industrial project.

Our most personal and urgent concern relates to the wellbeing of our family members who still reside in Ballinlee and the Bruff area.

- **Low-frequency turbine noise** has been associated with sleep disturbance and chronic stress.
- **Shadow flicker**, especially in winter months, poses a constant and intrusive nuisance.
- **Loss of peaceful enjoyment of homes and farmland** will have direct and measurable impacts on quality of life.

A project of this scale so close to family homes is inappropriate and poses unacceptable risks.

Rural communities should not be forced to shoulder the burden of industrial energy development without meaningful local benefit. This wind farm serves corporate interests, not local residents, and imposes lasting damage on the very people who have cared for this landscape across generations.

For the reasons outlined above—covering environmental, heritage, tourism, health, and community welfare concerns—we respectfully request that **An Coimisiún Pleanála reject the application in full.**

This region is unique, culturally significant, environmentally sensitive, and deeply valued by those who live there and those of us who still call it home.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick and Christina Barrett

South Boston

MA, USA

Mary Clery (nee Barrett)

Ardpatrick

Kilfinane,

Co. Limerick

Ann Hosford (nee Barrett)

Kilfinane

Co. Limerick