

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Strategic Infrastructure Development – Direct Planning Application for c.25km 110kV underground electrical cabling and associated works from the proposed Cahermurphy West Wind Farm to the Moneypoint 110kV substation, Co. Clare.

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

Submission by: Senan McMahon

Address: Donail, Killimer, Kilrush, Co.Clare

Fee: €50 paid online

### Observation on Strategic Infrastructure Development Application –Refusal Requested

I am a local resident, landowner, and farmer in the area directly impacted by this proposed cable route. I object in the strongest possible terms to this entire application and request its outright refusal.

This proposal shows a clear prioritisation of corporate profit over the lives, livelihoods, and rights of rural families and farmers in west Clare. The applicants and the interests behind the windfarm display a striking lack of concern for the long-term harm they will cause to the communities that must live with the consequences.

#### Key Grounds for Refusal:

##### 1. Land Grabbing by Stealth and Permanent Sterilisation of Farmland

This cable will create a permanent protected corridor that will severely restrict or block future development on affected lands. The applicants are effectively taking control of private land through the back door under the label of essential infrastructure. Once laid, the utility company will hold lasting rights over the route, leaving landowners with significantly reduced rights over their own property.

Farmers will face ongoing pressure for access, reduced land values, and major limitations on what they can do with their holdings. Experience shows that farmers in these situations receive little meaningful long-term support. This indifference to existing rural families is unacceptable.

##### 2. Blocking of Farm Entrances, Access Disruption, and Impacts on Homes

The proposed works will directly interfere with my farm entrances. Construction is likely to block or damage these essential access points, which I rely on daily for machinery,

livestock movement, and access to my home. This will cause serious and prolonged disruption to normal farming activities and everyday life. The applicants appear unconcerned about these practical impacts on families living and working here.

### 3. Serious Risk to Private Spring Wells and Natural Springs

My private spring well, which supplies water to my property, lies only a few metres from the road. Similar natural springs exist along the route. The deep trenching and heavy construction risk disturbing groundwater flows, introducing sediment, and causing potential contamination or long-term changes to water quality and yield.

Many households and farms in rural west Clare depend on these springs. The application fails to properly address these risks, showing a careless disregard for people's basic water supplies.

### 4. Destruction of Roads Over Boggy Ground – Who Pays?

Large parts of the route cross unstable bog and soft ground. Excavating deep trenches and operating heavy machinery will damage road surfaces, leading to subsidence, cracking, and ongoing problems for years. Farm access and local traffic will be badly affected.

The application does not clearly state who will pay for the repeated repairs and extra maintenance. Local families and farmers should not be left carrying the cost while the developers benefit and move on.

### 5. Major Construction Disruption

The works will involve digging long trenches through roads and fields, creating large underground pits at regular intervals where the cable sections are joined together, installing access chambers, and running heavy machinery through the area for many months. After the works, full reinstatement of land and roads is often inadequate in practice, leaving compacted soil, drainage problems, and damaged ground. My farm entrances and daily operations will suffer direct and lasting impacts.

### 6. Health and Safety Risks from Electromagnetic Fields

As someone who works in the medical field with MRI scanners, I am familiar with the strict controls required around strong magnetic fields for patients with implanted medical devices such as pacemakers, ICDs, aneurysm clips, and other electronic implants. A 110kV underground cable produces magnetic fields, particularly near the cable joint points and when under heavy load. I believe the application should fully assess any potential risks to local residents and farmers who may have such devices.

### 7. Speculative Nature and Overall Justification

This cable exists solely to serve a large proposed windfarm whose full impacts are still speculative. The application appears designed to advance major infrastructure without proper overall scrutiny. The claimed benefits do not justify the permanent damage to farmland, property rights, roads, water supplies, and rural communities. The applicants have shown insufficient regard for those who will bear the real and lasting costs.

#### Conclusion

This proposal is poorly justified, disproportionately damaging, and dismissive of the real burdens it will place on local farmers and residents for decades to come. It must be refused in full.

I wish to speak at an oral hearing if one is held. I also reserve my full rights to make further submissions or take any other steps necessary if this application is approved.

Signed: Senan McMahon

Date: 3/5/2026