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As I sit down to make these observations I fear they will be over looked and will not be taking into consideration what so ever!

I live in Thumbeagh Co. offaly boarding Lemanaghan bog which is been proposed for 15 wind turbines with tip height of 220m (the biggest in Ireland and in some parts of the world) now I have no issue with wind turbines if designed correctly to the landscape they can enhance the area and I believe they are to play a massive part in bringing down our carbon emissions and helping Ireland to transition from fossil fuels which we need to do, my issue with these is they are been planted on peatlands, for the past 4 years I have been part of a farm carbon EIP project which consists of restoring peatlands to its natural habitat, in order to do this the water table must be risng in order to restore peatlands and lock in carbon. In Ireland peat soils cover approximately 1.46 million ha or 21% of the land surface and store approximately 2.3 billion tonnes of Carbon if it is restored, Over many generations, drainage of these peatlands was actively encouraged and incentivised with a focus on maximising the peat resource in terms of energy production, horticulture and agriculture. We now live in an age where we know the importance of bogs for carbon sequestration and biodiversity habitats we must protect them, not to mention peoples right to a natural landscape for mental health, which these are effecting a lot of people through the country.

In 1960s Bord na Mona took bogs from farmers as compulsory purchase order to harvest peat for energy consumption, my grandfather had 78 acres of bog taking and was giving 78 pounds for it, and was told take the money or we will take it anyway! This still seems to be the case today, He was also told when peat harvesting was finished the bog would go back to the original land owner or back to nature to which nether will happen instead they plan to dig up and destroy the little bit that they have left and the same Families of this area are been pushed aside and not taking into any consideration not to mention the biodiversity history is repeating itself and 60 years on we have no laws to protect the bog or the people.

While semi states companies seem to have the power to ignore and break numerous laws for example harvesting peat from 1988 to 2020 with no licence and get away with this with no penalties, They state in appendix 11-1 climate legislation policy the effects of greenhouse gases but yet they are digging up one of the most important and natural resources of combating climate change, one of the main key drivers of climate change is draining of peatlands and they are still allowed and continuing to do this Bord na Mona are Completely ignoring nature restoration places legally binding obligations on Ireland to restore degraded peatlands 30% by 2030 instead they are still draining this bog which in itself is breaking the law! We received a letter in post last year stating that farmers can no longer plough peatlands and then bord na mona are aloud to dig out millions of tonnes of peat to pour massive concrete foundations for turbines which will only be running for 30 to 40 years maximum, this is not sustainable this is pure madness, a healthy bog can grow 1 millimetre of peat per year, there are metres of peat still left in this bog which took millions of year to develop and we are going to allow a company to dig this up for the sake of 30/40 years it just does not make any sense!

One of my concerns is the effect of the water table we are living off a well and when the bogs were drained in the 1970s our well went dry so we had to bore a deeper well, going by the Foundations of these turbines they are driving 16 piles to a dept of 18m this is going to have a massive impact on the hydrology of this area which I cant find any reports that in application that highlight the hydrology impacts on neighbouring lands surely this has to be carried out with so many rural

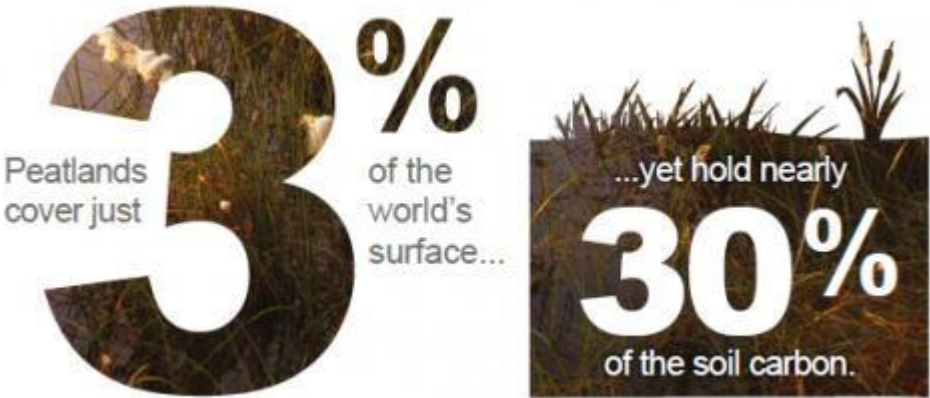
homes and farms. Also the amount of drainage they are installing it will no longer be possible to restore this bog to a healthy habitat and it will destore the biodiversity habitat that has returned since illegal peat harvesting has commenced.

My family have massive Health concerns from noise, I work in forestry and I do have to work close to windfarms and they have a impact on your ears the noise levels are constantly changing so your brain can not adapt and fade out this sound the only way I can describe it is like living next door to a airport, but at least if you live next to a airport planes stop flying during the night these turbines wont, I have also visited people living in the area of Derringlough windfarm and they have told me there lives are destroyed the wake up at night from the sound and cant go back to sleep, there kids wake up crying they cant sleep end up missing school, this seems to be happening all over the country and no one seems to be doing anything to prevent this it really is frightening to be honest, me and my wife lived abroad and we came back to Ireland to raise a family and main reason we decided to settle down here is because of its beautiful landscape and peace and Tranquility and this could be taking from use at this stage in our lives is heart breaking to be honest. I have a son and daughter which I hope they would build a house on our land in the future but if guidelines are ever updated then this may prevent them from ever building here and this causes a lot of worry and stress to our lives.

Shadow flicker sun rises in the east there are 3 turbines T8 T9 and T10 which is going to have a massive effect on us, I farm and my wife recently had a newborn so she will be homemaker for the next coming years studies now prove shadow flicker is having massive impacts on peoples mental health, the fact bord na mona solution to shadow flicker is to supply you with black out blind proves that they just don't care about the affect these are going to have on people health and well being. I work full time at the moment but I am working towards farming full time so this would effect us on a daily basis, and part of the farm I would like to share this beautiful landscape with tourists and plan to set up a camp site on my bog in 2027 to bring in extra income to sustain a farm living, if the windfarm goes ahead this will effect this plan and I may be looking at selling up and leaving Ireland altogether problem with that is no one will want to buy my property or farm if these if this windfarm goes ahead, I lie awake at night with worry of what is going to happen, I took over our family farm four years ago and in that space of time I have converted in to organic rewetted our bog to store carbon and enhance biodiversity iv stop cutting cutting turf and transitioned to firewood and worked extremely hard to do these things to improve the farm the landscape and my mental health and to think all of these things can be taking from me because a cooperate company can makes money really hurts it is like a kick in the teeth while your on the ground there is no way of fighting it.

Offaly has paid its fair price in energy production over the past 60 years we now have more wind turbines than any other county not to mention all on peatlands, we have had enough from bogs taken from us and biodiversity habitats destroyed we need a break from all this. The fact of the matter we know the health effects, we are working off 2006 guidelines which were put in place when turbines were 100m tall not 220m! they need to be updated before anymore windfarms go ahead, its destroying lives, communities and biodiversity which are all in decline and all for what MONEY! It has to stop the power is in your hands and the faith of the people in this area rely on you to make to right decision here and stop or even delay this until new guidelines are brought in that actually meet the health and welfare of the people the biodiversity and the landscape, this is effecting so many elements of this community it cant just be giving the green light,

Just a little Fact about Peatlands and there importance through the world



This amounts to at least 550 Gigatonnes or more than twice as much as the world's forests, making them the foremost terrestrial stores of carbon on the planet.