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An Coimisiún Pleanála

**Planning Application Reference Number:** ACP-324165-26

**Applicant:** Maughanaclea Ltd / Enerco

**Description of Development:** 10 year planning permission for Maughanaclea Wind Farm consisting of 14 no. wind turbines, a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cabling connection and associated works

**Location:** Maughanaclea, County Cork

A Chara,

I wish to register my objection to the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm, application number ACP-324165-26

**Natural Restoration Law:**

Approving this development would conflict with the Natural Restoration Law, which mandates that all EU member states restore habitats by 2030, achieve 60% restoration by 2040, and 90% by 2050. Derrenacrinnig and its surrounding areas are recognized as landscapes of high value and sensitivity. Constructing an industrial wind turbine farm here would harm this natural environment and go against the principles of the Natural Restoration Law that once an area is in good condition, countries must ensure they are not significantly deteriorated.

**Health and environmental Risks:**

Wind turbines release microplastics due to leading-edge erosion caused by the continuous impact of water droplets, dust, and air. Although research in this area is still emerging, it is already clear that microplastics can have harmful health and environmental effects, including inflammation and DNA damage. The proposed construction of this industrial wind turbine farm would increase microplastic pollution in the area, contaminating watercourses and being ingested by local animals such as sheep, which graze there. Ultimately, these microplastics will enter the human food chain.

**Energy Consumption of Data Centres:**

In 2024, data centres accounted for 22% of Ireland's total metered electricity consumption, a significant increase from just 5% in 2015. This demand is expected to continue rising, particularly as AI-powered searches require substantially more energy than traditional queries. For example, a single query to a Google-powered AI like Gemini uses around 0.24 watt-hours, compared to approximately 0.3 watt-hours or less for a standard Google search—making AI queries more energy-intensive per search. Some AI models consume even more energy. Given the growing demands for energy, it is crucial that alternative solutions for generating energy are explored, as relying solely on wind power will not be sufficient and will lead to significant damage to our countryside.

Considering all the points outlined on page 1, I firmly oppose the construction of the industrial wind turbine farm in this environmentally sensitive region. Such a project would harm Cork, especially West Cork, which relies heavily on tourism. Currently, Cork has the second largest installed wind energy capacity in Ireland, after Kerry. Surely, there are better alternatives to meet Ireland's energy needs both current and future without damaging its natural landscapes and polluting the countryside.

I trust my concerns will be taken into consideration prior to a decision being reached on this planning application.

Yours faithfully,

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Eileen O'Sullivan