

34 Bayview Lawns,
Killiney Hill Road,
Killiney,
Co Dublin.

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
Strategic Infrastructure Development,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,

D01 V902.

14/4/2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref: Planning Reference PAX04.324165, Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development, Bantry, Co. Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

I make this submission to express my strong support for the proposed planning application (Ref: PAX04.324165) submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), for the Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development in Co. Cork.

I was born in Maughanaclea and grew up there on our family farm. I now live in Dublin, but I have a continuing and deep interest in what happens “at home”. While this project may be “local” in nature, its purpose, to produce sustainable, renewable, clean energy from the abundant winds that blow over the Maughanaclea hills, is as powerful as it is timely. In my view, it is essential that it is supported for the greater societal good.

The proposed development, which I understand will include 14 wind turbines, a 110kV substation, underground cabling to the existing Dunmanway 110kV substation, and all

associated infrastructure, represents an important investment in Ireland's renewable energy infrastructure. The scale and integrated nature of the project, appears to me to demonstrate a well considered and strategic approach to energy generation and grid connectivity.

This project is strongly aligned with established European and national energy and climate policy, including the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III), RePowerEU, the National Planning Framework (First Revision), Climate Action Plan 2025, and the National Energy Security Framework. Ireland is required to significantly accelerate the deployment of onshore wind in order to meet its target of 9GW of installed capacity and 80% renewable electricity by 2030. Developments such as this, with a projected capacity of over 67MW, are an essential and achievable part of our nation achieving these targets.

What is also clear in the context of the current global energy crisis, exacerbated by geopolitical instability including conflict involving Iran, the need to eliminate reliance on imported fossil fuels has become increasingly urgent. Ireland remains particularly vulnerable as a net energy importer. Strategic, indigenous renewable energy projects such as the Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development will play a vital role in enhancing national energy security, insulating the country from external supply shocks, and ensuring a more stable and self-sufficient energy future.

I also note that the application is supported by a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), which assess the potential environmental effects of the development and identify appropriate mitigation measures. The inclusion of biodiversity enhancement measures, peatland restoration, and careful site design demonstrates a responsible and considered approach to environmental management in my view.

Furthermore, the project offers meaningful socio-economic benefits, including employment during construction and operation, potential community benefit initiatives, and broader support for rural economic development in West Cork.

While it is important that potential impacts on landscape, ecology, and local amenity are fully considered, the extensive assessments undertaken and the proposed mitigation strategies provide sufficient evidence to me that these impacts will be appropriately managed. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, the overriding public interest in delivering renewable energy

infrastructure, as recognised in EU and national policy, should be given substantial weight in consideration of this planning application.

Finally, one of my earliest childhood memories occurred while looking out from the Maughanaclea hills toward Bantry Bay in January 1979, as flames and black smoke billowed from the doomed Bettlegeuse Oil tanker, as millions of gallons of oil spilled into the bay, destroying precious marine life, in addition to the loss of 50 lives, in the biggest maritime disaster in Irish history. I remember asking my late father why anyone would bring this horrible crude oil around the world, resulting in such tragedy and polluting our beautiful countryside, as was occurring immediately in front of my young eyes. He simply acknowledged I had a good point, and set me the challenge that when I grew up, maybe I could come up with an alternative solution! Well I did grow up, I became an Engineer and it is Engineers like me that have indeed come up with alternative clean energy solutions, through harnessing the power of our wind, that is so abundant and freely available to us in West Cork and the West Coast of Ireland in general. Hence, in my view, now that we can successfully harness this amazing clean resource, we have a duty to support these renewal clean energy projects. We should never again want, or need, horrible fossil fuels from the other side of the world, which has caused such extensive environmental damage throughout the past century, including locally in Bantry Bay as outlined.

In conclusion, in my view the proposed development is a well-conceived, policy-aligned, and strategically important project that will contribute significantly to Ireland's climate objectives and energy security. I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to grant approval for planning application Ref: PAX04.324165.

Yours faithfully,



Tim Murnane BEng CEng FIEI FICE FConsEI EURING

Chartered Engineer