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The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

**Re: Objection to the Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure
Development Objection Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála**

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Windfarm consisting of 16 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, 110kV underground cable and grid connection, and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower & Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a resident of the area in proximity to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project, submitted by Constant Energy Limited, to formally lodge my objection to this Strategic Infrastructure Development application. This development poses significant and irreversible risks to the local environment, biodiversity, and residents. In particular, the proposal threatens critical habitats for protected species such as the Hen Harrier, involves substantial habitat removal including over 4 km of hedgerow, and raises serious concerns regarding visual impact, traffic disruption, and the adequacy of community consultation. These issues, in addition to shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, justify a refusal of permission for this project.

I wish to make the following observations in objection to this application:

1. Residential and Property Impact

The Lacken area is a densely populated community, with over 200 homes located within the immediate 2km of the proposed development. The wider area of the parish includes Kilcummin and the two Lacken and Kilcummin make up the whole community, within the parish there is over 400 houses that would be affected visually by the proposed development. It is our opinion that the applicant has not given a true and proper assessment of the area in its application. The Lacken kilcummin area is not simply a “site” between Killala and Ballycastle it is our home and our community. A project of this scale would have a significantly detrimental impact on property values, as well as a negative impact on the tranquillity of the area and the enjoyment of our homes and gardens. Residents are entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their possessions, as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 1, Protocol 1). Based on experiences in other communities, the impact on residential amenity from living in close proximity to a wind farm is considerable. The applicant has not adequately recognised or addressed the concerns of the Lacken community, and it is essential that the Board gives this due consideration.

2. Site Suitability and Landscape Impact

Lacken is not simply a site between Killala and Ballycastle—it is a well-established community and our home. While geographically Lacken and Kilcummin are divided by Lacken Strand (600 acres) and the Lacken Salt Marsh SAC (500 acres), the community one and the Board must ensure it is treated as such in its decision making process. The proposed development sites are not separate from our homes, and this must be properly acknowledged.

The area contains sensitive and highly valued landscapes, visible from the Wild Atlantic Way, the proposed Céide Coast Walk, and other designated scenic routes. The introduction of large-scale turbines would result in significant visual intrusion, fundamentally altering the character of the coastal and rural landscape. This is contrary to the Mayo County Development Plan policies on landscape protection and visual amenity.

3. Environmental and Ecological Concerns

The proposed site includes sensitive habitats such as blanket bog and areas of ecological importance under the Habitats Directive. The excavation of large volumes of peat and associated disturbance would have long-term negative impacts on biodiversity and undermine ongoing peatland restoration efforts.

4. Impact on Hen Harrier Habitat

I am particularly concerned about the impact on the Hen Harrier, an Annex I protected species under the EU Birds Directive, whose population in Ireland has declined significantly. The EIAR confirms the presence of Hen Harriers within the study area and recognises that the site provides suitable foraging and roosting habitat.

A winter roost has been recorded within the study area; however, there appears to be no comprehensive survey of winter roosting activity within the actual development footprint. In the absence of robust data, it is not possible to conclude that the impacts on this species have been fully assessed.

The development will result in permanent habitat loss and fragmentation, including removal of hedgerows, disturbance of blanket bog, and the construction of access roads and infrastructure. While mitigation measures are proposed, there is uncertainty as to whether replacement habitats can replicate the ecological value of those lost, particularly in the short to medium term.

Due to the cumulative effect of all the proposed windfarms that are currently in the pipeline for north Mayo there is also concern regarding displacement effects, as Hen Harriers and other at risk species may avoid areas surrounding turbines, due to the ever reducing available foraging habitat. The cumulative effect of habitat loss, disturbance, and displacement has not been adequately addressed by the applicant in its documents. Given these factors, and the conservation status of the species, the precautionary principle should apply.

5. Traffic and Infrastructure Impact

The construction phase will result in significant disruption to the local road network due to the transportation of abnormal loads. Road widening and modifications will be required, impacting traffic flow and road safety. These impacts have not been sufficiently mitigated. The significant increase in traffic on our local roads will have a very negative impact on our family as we work in the wider area outside on Lacken. The applicant has not addressed Mayo County Council's concerns regarding the impact on the road infrastructure in the area. We do not feel that a proper engineering assessment has been done on Palmerstown Bridge and the Board should ensure this is kept in mind when making its decision.

6. Community and Socio-Economic Issues

While the need for renewable energy is acknowledged, the socio-economic impact on the local community raises serious concerns that have not been properly addressed in the applicant's application. Sustainable family farms and local amenities may be adversely affected, and the proposed community benefit package lacks clarity and meaningful engagement. The community funds that the applicant proposes will not adequately make up for the community's concerns on the development.

In addition, my family operates a business that relies on tourism in this area. Visitors are drawn here specifically for the natural beauty, unspoiled landscapes, and scenic coastal views. The introduction of large-scale wind turbines would significantly alter the character of

the area and risks deterring visitors, with direct negative consequences for local livelihoods and the wider tourism economy.

Fundamentally, this proposal would cause significant harm to the spectacular and unspoiled landscape stretching from Céide to Downpatrick and on to Lacken and beyond, as well as to the communities and households throughout these areas. This landscape is a defining feature of North Mayo and underpins both its identity and its appeal.

The development would seriously undermine the tourism offering in the region, particularly in the context of the recently published *Wild Mayo* plan. This plan represents, for the first time, a clear and collaborative roadmap for developing tourism in North Mayo, reflecting substantial effort and input from local communities, including those in Ballycastle, Lacken, and surrounding areas. The proposed wind farm is fundamentally at odds with this vision.

Introducing large-scale industrial infrastructure into this landscape risks undoing the positive progress achieved and would significantly detract from the natural beauty that draws visitors to the area. In reality, the region cannot be sustainably promoted as both a wind energy development zone and a premier tourism destination—these objectives are inherently conflicting. Advancing this project would therefore compromise the long-term tourism potential of North Mayo and the livelihoods that depend on it.

7. Cumulative Impact and Strategic Considerations

The proposed development overlaps with areas subject to other existing or planned developments, leading to increased cumulative environmental, visual, and infrastructural impacts. The scale and height of modern turbines further raise concerns regarding the suitability of this location.

I wish to adopt and support the detailed submission made by the Lacken Ballycastle Community Landscape Protection Group in relation to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development (PAX16.324258). In particular, I endorse the concerns raised regarding cumulative wind farm development across North Mayo, impacts on the Céide Fields cultural landscape, effects on tourism and recreation, biodiversity impacts, inadequacies in community consultation, and the assessment of the Battery Energy Storage System. While I do not repeat those detailed arguments in full, I request that they be considered as forming part of this submission.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm is not appropriate for this location due to its significant negative impacts on residential amenity, landscape character, ecology, infrastructure, and the local community. I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Breege Clarke