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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 within proximity to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project, submitted by Constant Energy Limited, to formally lodge my objection to this Strategic Infrastructure Development application

While I support sustainable energy initiatives in principle, this specific project represents an inappropriate, heavy industrialisation of a highly vulnerable rural and coastal environment. It violates local development policy, threatens invaluable cultural heritage, and directly compromises my local environment and community safety.

My formal objections are grounded in the following critical planning and environmental grounds:

I am writing as a resident of the area within 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 local 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 inadequate community consultation. These issues, coupled with shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, justify a refusal of permission for this project.

- Guidelines exist to protect vulnerable areas from haphazard sporadic development, as this development extends across a 6km area. The applicant cannot provide a robust planning policy justification that warrants overriding these guidelines. Allowing this project to proceed sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the county's planning integrity.

3. Renewable energy targets

County Mayo has exceeded its initial minimum renewable energy target of 600 megawatts (MW), prompting a major policy update via Draft Variation No. 2 of the [Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028](#). The county's existing and permitted renewable energy capacity has scaled up to over 1,114 MW across wind, solar, bioenergy, and green hydrogen projects. Why are Mayo residents expected to accept huge wind farm developments on their doorstep when targets have already been reached?

2. Destruction of Vulnerable Visual and Coastal Landscapes

The scale and height of up to 16 modern wind turbines at a height of 135m will visually dominate and permanently scar our beautiful coastal local landscape.

- This development directly threatens designated scenic roads, prominent ridge lines, and vulnerable coastal landscapes in County Mayo. No amount of design flexibility can mask the severe visual impact these colossal structures will impose on an area valued for its natural, unspoiled beauty and local tourism economy.

3. Direct Threat to Irreplaceable Local Cultural Heritage

The proposed infrastructure and grid connection routes present an unacceptable physical and visual risk to local heritage sites.

- I am deeply concerned by the proximity of the turbine array to the Lacken Gazebo, a highly significant, freestanding obelisk-topped Folly. Furthermore, the proposed Grid Connection Route (GCR) risks structural and architectural damage to the Palmerstown Bridge, which is a designated Protected Structure. These historical landmarks must be preserved in their authentic, undisturbed settings.

4. Severe Cumulative Impact on the Community

The local region is already carrying an unfair, disproportionate burden of renewable energy infrastructure.

- My Objection: The application fails to adequately account for the cumulative effects of existing, extant, and proposed wind farms in this immediate vicinity. The saturation of wind infrastructure will lead to the complete industrialisation of our rural community, resulting in compounded ecological stress and a severe drop in local residential amenity.

5. Ecological Risks and Water Framework Directive Compliance

The scale of construction poses immediate risks to local biodiversity and water quality.

- The applicant's baseline statement that "no sensitive species were identified" is highly contested and requires rigorous, independent verification using the most up-to-date collision risk models. Furthermore, the extensive excavation required for turbine foundations, a BESS, and underground cabling threatens local hydrology. I contend that this project risks failing compliance with the Water Framework Directive, risking catastrophic runoff into local water systems.

6. Public Safety: Battery Storage (BESS) and Traffic

The integration of heavy industrial components presents immediate, unmitigated safety hazards to local residents.

- The inclusion of a large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) introduces severe fire safety and environmental risks to the surrounding area. Additionally, the local, substandard road network is entirely unsuited for the intense, hazardous industrial traffic required for turbine delivery and construction, presenting a major road safety risk to residents along the haul routes.

Conclusion

The proposed Tirawley Wind Farm represents severe overdevelopment in an unsuitable area. It directly threatens protected architectural structures, sensitive coastal landscapes, and the safety and quiet enjoyment of the local community.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála refuses planning permission for this development.

Please find enclosed the mandatory statutory observation fee of €50. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this submission in writing and notify me of the Board's final determination.

Yours faithfully,

Dominick Keavney