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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, Castlелacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a resident of Lacken, the parish where the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm is seeking planning permission. I wish to formally lodge my objection to this Strategic Infrastructure Development application. It will cause significant and irreversible damage to the local environment, biodiversity and local residents and their properties. This development threatens important habitats for protected species including the Hen Harrier, will destroy at least 4 km of hedgerow, and raises numerous concerns regarding visual impact, traffic disruption, and poor community consultation.

Having read the planning application documents, I wish to raise the following concerns:

I strongly object to the erection of the Tirawley wind turbines and the associated site work because we have a son with special needs who is autistic. We live 1.5 miles from our farm. Robert goes there every day to do his work and to chill out and enjoy the peace and quiet. He does not like the noise of heavy machinery and a lot of lorries coming and going on narrow

roads. Robert likes to walk from field to field and to the yard along the local roads to enjoy the scenery and talk to the neighbours. All this disruption will affect him a lot. The noise from the turbine blades turning will really aggravate my son, along with the shadow flicker. My son's autism has been diagnosed by Cathriona Whelan who in her report from the Department of Education states that he needs a calm, peaceful environment. If this windfarm goes ahead it will destroy his life with how busy it will be with all the traffic and the noise, infrasound and shadow flicker from the turbines. All the strange workers in the area will not understand his special needs. It isn't fair to expose him to this level of annoyance at his home and place of work where he always feels relaxed. He will get no break from this annoyance if this planned windfarm goes ahead.

I also want to make the point that our farm is fragmented, with fields spread throughout the Barnhill area between where AT05 and 06 and AT07 and 08 are intended to be built. We need the local road to access our land. If this development goes ahead, we will not be able to walk cattle and sheep safely on the road from field to field. The delivery route for all the turbines after AT06 will pass by all our land, cutting off access and preventing us from running our farm. The amount of road works on these country roads and construction works will cause a lot of problems for us and our neighbours. We were never approached by anyone from Tirawley windfarm to get our point of view on the development or explain to us what they were going to be doing. The first time we heard that the Tirawley windfarm was actually going ahead was when the site notices went up.

I have read in the planning documents that the field where AT07 is planned to go is to be used as a spoil repository area for peat and soil. I have serious objections to this field being used as a repository area. It will back up and block the flow of water downhill from my field which is right beside it. This will make my land that is already naturally very wet unusable and cause me to have to reduce my livestock numbers. Also, this field of mine is at the end of a cul-de-sac which is proposed to be crossed in two places for the new site access track for AT07 onwards. I will have big problems moving cattle and sheep to this field if this goes ahead and trenches are dug across this breen to make the access road and also when the lorries are crossing it.

AT08 is proposed to be close to my fence and I have read in the plan that my boundary hedge has to be cut and cleared back for a buffer zone. My farm is in the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) so any part of the farm cannot be touched during construction due to the wildflowers and hedges that are related to the scheme. I get payments for preserving good quality habitats, including wildflowers and hedges. This hedge they want to cut back is growing entirely on my land and I have not been asked for permission to cut it. This turbine is also beside a stream which is going to be polluted by all the digging and erection of the turbine and the access road which will cross it upstream from my field. This is the only drinking water for animals in the field. AT07 in the other neighbouring field is very close to my fence. Having two turbines very close to my field will frighten my animals, if I can even get them out to that field from all the lorries on the road and if they have any clean water left to drink. My view on the developer of the Tirawley wind farm is that they have no

interest in considering the local people that will be severely affected by this proposed development.

It seems from the site layout maps that the developer wants to take my boundary fences for road widening along the L5179-23, including outside my yard gate. I have not been notified of this or been asked for permission. If I had been asked I would not have given permission. On the verge of the road outside my yard in Barnhill there is Japanese Knotweed growing. It cannot be disturbed by order of Mayo County Council because they are keeping it under control by spraying it. This has stopped it from spreading but road widening works proposed by the developer will undo all this progress.

My family and I travel these few miles several times a day, and night during calving and lambing, to run our farm. We also need the vet on occasion, so we need to have full and clear access to our farm at all times and not be interfered with or delayed. The amount of road widening and other construction from Carn and Billoos to Barroe and coming into Barnhill and Carrowmore will cause major disruption to our family and our special needs son and neighbours who use this road a lot. Also, the amount of lorries and machinery moving through the mentioned villages will cause traffic jams, disruptions and delays. With all the local roads they want to take over for this development there is no alternative route left for traffic and the developer wasn't concerned enough to talk to the locals or make a plan for this problem in the planning documents.

As regards wildlife and plants, the area is full of plants, wildflowers and bushes that make excellent habitats for wildlife and have never been disturbed before. As regards to animals and birds they are numerous including deer, stoats, pine martens and birds such as pheasants, robins, goldfinches, snipe and kestrel. I will mention badgers in particular because the Department of Agriculture checks the badger setts in the area. I was contacted by a man employed by the Department of Agriculture in early May 2026 looking for permission to trap badgers on my land to test for TB after an outbreak in the area. The outbreak was concentrated in the area around the southern part of the proposed windfarm and in the Barnhill area. Construction works in these areas will disturb badgers and deer and could cause the TB to spread further which is an unnecessary risk to place on local farmers.

Another point is that I had a visit from representatives of the developer about putting a turbine on my land, which I turned down. The map he showed me did not show the megalithic tomb, which is on my land, beside where they wanted to put the turbine. It seems to me that their information is not accurate because not only is this tomb (MA014-011002) recorded by the National Monuments Service, it was also studied in the 1960s and included in a published report and is marked on ordinary Tailte Éireann maps that can be bought in the shop. It is strange that the developer didn't have such a well recorded megalithic tomb on their maps. It would make you wonder what else they are missing from their plans.

I also wish to adopt and support the detailed submission made by the Lacken Ballycastle Landscape Protection Group in relation to the proposed Tirawley windfarm 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.

In conclusion, I respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project is not appropriate for this location due to the points raised above and the numerous and extreme negative impacts on residents, the local landscape, habitats, roads and bridges, and the parish community. I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard Boyd