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Co Mayo Eire

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To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to the plans to build a wind farm planning application number 323778. This is the second planning submission.

Reasons for my objection

1. There will be **significant noise** during the development and running of this wind farm. This will affect everyone in the area and unlike noise in your own home (e.g., from a TV, which you can turn off), there will be no relief for local people 24/7, 52 weeks of the year. Research evidence suggests that even where the noise of a windfarm has limited impact on peoples overall health, the stress of having a windfarm in ones locality is recognised (see Woodland, L, Minkin, M & Fenech, B 2024, Health effects related to wind turbine sound – a rapid evidence review covering 2020-2024. in *53rd International Congress and Exposition on Noise Control Engineering, Internoise 2024*. 53rd International Congress and Exposition on Noise Control Engineering, Internoise 2024, vol. 10, Societe Francaise d'Acoustique, pp. 7700-7711, 53rd International Congress and Exposition on Noise Control Engineering, Internoise 2024, Nantes, France, 25/08/24. https://doi.org/10.3397/IN_2024_3994 <https://researchportal.ukhsa.gov.uk/en/publications/health-effects-related-to-wind-turbine-sound-a-rapid-evidence-rev/>
2. There will be **night pollution**. The dark skies are currently lit only by the moon and stars. Lacken bay reflects these natural lights and impacts everyone around the bay. The introduction of additional lights in a rural community will be significant. People, birds and animals will be disturbed by this lighting. Small holding farmers in particular will be impacted by the introduction of windfarm lighting on farming practices and the overall conditions in which they farm.
3. My land supports **migrating and local bird populations under threat**. The proposed wind farm will negatively impact birds that are currently spotted by locals and birdwatchers alike. A google search confirms what locals already know. Lacken Strand in County Mayo, Ireland, is a premier birdwatching destination. This designated Area of Special Conservation and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty spans a 600-acre strand and 500-acre marshland, making it an absolute haven for coastal and migratory birdlife. The dynamic mix of tidal bays, sandy beaches, and protected salt marshes draws a huge variety of species, including:
 - **Waders:** Ringed Plovers, Curlews, Lapwings, and Redshanks forage along the mudflats.

- **Swallows are listed as Amber-listed species**, meaning they are a breeding bird of medium conservation concern and they nest every year on my land, arriving from South Africa every year to breed.
 - **Wintering Waterfowl:** Watch for Brent Geese, egrets, and occasional divers in the sheltered back strand.
 - **Seabirds:** Plunge-diving gannets, terns, cormorants, and black guillemots are prevalent near Rathlacken Pier and Kilcummin Bay.
 - **Raptors & Songbirds:** Kestrels, Peregrine Falcons, and coastal-dwelling choughs frequent the cliff edges and surrounding scrub
- International research (see <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0304387824001512>) has demonstrated repeatedly that wind turbines negatively impact bird diversity via habitat loss for birds which leads to a reduction in bird species. My home in Killogeary supports migrating birds that nest on my land. The proposed development will negatively impact these birds and the eco system that supports them.
4. The proposed development **will negatively impact local water resources**. As a homeowner, I get all my water from my well on my land. I am concerned that water availability may be further impacted by this development. New homes developed in this locality above my home have led to a reduction in the amount of water in my well at peak times during the year (summer mainly). I cannot get water from anywhere else but from my well. If my well runs dry my home is no longer habitable. This development could make me and my neighbours homeless.
 5. The **traffic that will arise from the proposed development is a serious concern**. As a grandmother I am already concerned about the speed and volume of traffic on these very narrow country roads. Local government exists to protect local people from harm (amongst many other duties) and the proposed development has the potential to deter people from this area of outstanding natural beauty due to traffic concerns as well as potentially harming those living there. The roads in this area are not suitable for heavy traffic because many homes are situated within 2 foot-steps of the road.
 6. Bessies bar (Kilcummin) attracts young surfers from Sligo where the waves are some of the best in the world (<https://thesurfatlas.com/surfing-ireland/surfing-in-sligo/>). Young people catch a ride on boats from Enniscrone to Killala and come to Lacken strand because Bessies bar and Lacken strand is a destination. I have family visitors from Sydney Australia, friends from Luxembourg, America and many other areas in Europe who praise the beauty of Lacken and its surrounding areas. **To put a windfarm in this area is Government vandalism**. Despite the relative poverty of this area for many generations, locals would prefer to say NO to this development because it is a threat to their livelihood. This development would negatively impact tourism, reduce the value of people's homes (people who already suffer disadvantages other areas of Ireland do not experience) and provide no positive benefit to locals.

There are many studies that demonstrate the negative impact of windfarms on wildlife, residents' health and wellbeing, the infrastructure and economy, as well as the destruction of areas of outstanding natural beauty. This proposed development is simply not a good development. In an area where jobs are scarce

and people need economic progress, if this development was a positive one there would be 100% support. Resistance to this development is not 'nimby' but rather residents telling planners, 'no to this project'. The price of this development to wildlife, community and to our land is too high. Our community does not want or need the proposed development at any price.