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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 to formally lodge my objection to the Tirawley Wind Farm project submitted by Constant Energy Limited as a resident of County Mayo and frequent visitor to the area of the proposed development.

This development poses significant risk of irreversible damage to the local environment, negatively impact residents, local infrastructure, visitors / tourists, the land and its biodiversity.

Traffic, Infrastructure and Safety Concerns

The impacts of the construction phase alone will cause major disruption to locals and tourists alike. Road infrastructure in the area is not suitable for continuous heavy goods vehicle traffic

making travel in the area difficult for locals and potentially dangerous for tourists if this project were to commence. The lorry traffic itself would cause significant wear and tear on the roads which is especially concerning following Mayo County Council's recent reduction in roadworks projects due to the rising cost of materials. I fear the roads in the area would be left in a poor state of repair generally and that funding would not be available to repair, nor should it be at the taxpayers' burden to repair said roads due to damage from a private project.

Direct Environmental and Ecological Concerns

The site for the proposed project includes peatlands which will be disrupted and requires the removal of peat which will result in the release of methane gas and disruption to flora and fauna which rely on the delicate peatland habitat, including some protected species under EU directives. The removal of large amounts of peat is counter to Ireland's biodiversity and climate goals set forth in the Climate Action Plan. The country has ceased Bord na Mona peat operations in efforts to restore peatlands. Additionally, citizens are now restricted from cutting turf and disturbing peatlands on a small scale. Allowing a private company to extract and disturb peat on a larger scale, releasing methane gas into the atmosphere merely for development is non-sensical and antithetical to Ireland's sustainability commitments.

Historic and Archaeological Concerns

The site for the proposed project is in close proximity to the Céide Fields Neolithic Site, the oldest known and the most extensive Stone Age monument in the world, dating back almost 6,000 years. There are many further sites which have been identified in the area over the years and there may be many sites of historical significance in the proposed area, yet to be discovered, which could be destroyed by the construction works. This needs to be taken into serious consideration for a multitude of reasons, most significantly: 1. Global historical significance for studying early human settlements and development. 2. This is a unique tourism draw for Ireland and the area itself; it must be protected.

Landscape Impact

The area of the proposed wind farm is an area of unique natural beauty, one of the most scenic along the Wild Atlantic Way. This is something that should be maintained as such, free from large scale modern construction that would detract from the rugged beauty which draws people to the area. The breathtaking views, rugged landscapes and picturesque beaches which brought my wife and I back time and again to this area, including on our wedding day to take photos in some of our favourite places. It would be heartbreaking to see that landscape changed and for future generations to miss out on the wild natural beauty.

Fire Safety

The nearest fire stations are in Crossmolina and Ballina, who at the very best have a 20 to 30 minute response time to the area. The plans incorporate large batteries, which in the event of a malfunction or thermal runaway could quickly cause an uncontrollable fire. Being that the area contains blanket bog and peatlands if this event were to happen there is a significant risk of a large bog / wildfire which could spread quick with the wind coming in from the Atlantic. This poses a big risk to human life both the residents and firefighters and could destroy the aforementioned habitat and unique environment.

Will local fire services be funded by the applicant for the latest training and equipment for handling battery and wildfires for the lifetime of the facility? Is there anything the Fire Service can do if these batteries do go on fire?

In conclusion, I respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project is not appropriate for this location due to the significant negative impacts on residential amenity, local landscape, ecology, infrastructure, the community and visitors to the area. I am worried about the irreversible damage to one of Ireland's most historic and picturesque areas. I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development in the interests of proper planning, preservation of areas of historical significance and sustainable development.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,
Stephen King