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The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
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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 wish to make a formal objection to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm. Although I do not reside permanently in Lacken, I have close family living there and have maintained a lifelong connection with the area. I am a frequent visitor and spend a considerable amount of time in Lacken throughout the year.

Lacken is much more than somewhere I visit. It is a place of family, heritage and recreation. The area's exceptional coastal landscape, peaceful atmosphere and unspoilt natural beauty are the reasons I continue to return. It is one of the few remaining areas on Ireland's Atlantic coast that has retained its rural character and sense of tranquillity.

Personal Connection and Recreational Amenity

A significant part of my time in Lacken is spent enjoying the outdoors. I regularly fish along the coastline and use the area for walking and recreation with family members. These activities depend entirely on the area's peaceful environment and outstanding natural landscape.

The proposed wind farm would fundamentally alter that experience. The introduction of very large industrial turbines into this sensitive coastal landscape would permanently change the character of the area. Instead of experiencing a quiet rural environment, visitors and families would be confronted by towering turbines, aviation lighting, turbine movement and associated infrastructure across the landscape.

The loss of tranquillity is itself a material planning consideration. The value of Lacken lies not simply in its scenery but in the opportunity it provides for people to enjoy an unspoilt coastal environment. Once industrialised, this landscape cannot be restored.

Landscape and Visual Impact

The proposed development would industrialise a landscape that is recognised for its scenic quality and its importance to residents, returning families and visitors alike.

The cumulative visual effect of multiple turbines extending across the landscape would fundamentally alter the identity of Lacken. The area's sense of place would be replaced by an industrial energy development of a scale entirely out of keeping with the existing environment.

This is particularly concerning given Lacken's position along the Atlantic coastline, where uninterrupted views and natural beauty form part of the area's character and appeal.

Tourism and the Local Economy

Tourism is an essential part of the local economy. Visitors come to Lacken because of its beaches, coastline, fishing, walking opportunities and peaceful surroundings.

The area's attractiveness depends on preserving these qualities. Industrial-scale wind turbines risk undermining the very features that encourage people to visit.

As someone who regularly spends time in Lacken, I know first-hand that the area's appeal lies in its natural environment. Any significant deterioration in landscape quality has the potential to affect visitor numbers and, consequently, local businesses that depend on tourism.

Roads and Construction

I also have serious concerns regarding the suitability of the local road network for transporting oversized turbine components.

The narrow rural roads serving Lacken were never designed for abnormal loads of this magnitude. The construction phase would inevitably result in disruption, road alterations, increased heavy traffic and potential safety risks for residents, visitors and those using the roads for recreation.

The long-term impact of these works should not be underestimated.

Protecting the Character of Lacken

Lacken possesses a unique identity built upon its landscape, heritage and community. These qualities cannot be recreated once lost.

The proposed development represents a permanent industrialisation of one of Mayo's most attractive coastal areas. The environmental, visual and recreational impacts would continue for decades and would fundamentally change how future generations experience this landscape.

My family, like many others with longstanding ties to Lacken, values the area because of what it is today—not because of what it could become through industrial development.

Conclusion

For all of the reasons outlined above—including the adverse impacts on landscape, visual amenity, recreational use, tourism, road safety and the unique character of Lacken—I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm.

The planning system has an important responsibility to protect landscapes of exceptional value for both present and future generations. In my view, this proposal would cause irreversible harm that significantly outweighs any claimed benefits.

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."

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, and the 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,

Tony Keating