

To: **An Coimisiún Pleanála**

Re: **Observations on the Proposed Lissinagroagh (Dough Mountain) Wind Farm Development.**

Applicant: **FuturEnergy**

Case Reference: **PAX 12.324290**

A Chara,

Having reviewed the planning application documents, I wish to strongly object to the proposed Lissinagroagh (Dough Mountain) wind farm development.

After years of working abroad, my brother found his perfect home in Co. Leitrim. A few months later, inspired by him, I also found the small cottage I had always dreamed of. After a lifetime of travelling the world, I finally felt the urge to settle. What drew us here was a heartfelt connection to natural beauty, pristine streams, rivers, lakes, wildlife, fresh air, ancient stone monuments and uncorrupted landscape.

Little did we know that our ancestors, the O'Sullivan Beares, on our grandmother's side had already been there before us, after having survived a treacherous 500km march from Co. Kerry, with only 35 out of 1,000 souls surviving this ordeal many centuries ago.

Maybe this was the reason for the strong attraction we felt and why moving to Leitrim felt like coming home. But I also think it was because of something so much that Leitrim offers.

For one thing it's a place where my spirit feels at peace. A place where nature abounds in all its glory and a place filled deep with beauty and mystery. A place where true community exists and the wonderful people always have time for a chat and a smile. It's a place to detox from the relentless greed, industrialisation and digitalisation that has seemingly spread over the rest of the world. It's a special place with a wonderful community with Dough Mountain standing over it. It too, is part of this community. I'm proud to be a resident here.

The people of Leitrim are continuously having to say 'no' to ongoing environmental threats; fracking, gold mining, Sitka spruce plantations and now these ludicrous, oversized and environmentally destructive wind turbines. Dough Mountain is riddled with underground tunnels with a peat layer on top that has already suffered landslides. It is probably the worst place for development. Dough Mountain is just not the right place for wind turbines – or any construction project.

Yes, along with many others, I was shocked and horrified when I heard about the proposed plan for erecting those unsustainable, unrecyclable, life-destroying, overbearing ugly monstrosities called wind turbines on Dough Mountain.

I don't have to mention numbers, statistics or facts related to this proposed wind farm. It's not just about installing a wind farm that will change the country way of life but it's the overwhelming upheaval of this natural habitat and its interconnected waterways which join near and distant special areas of conservation that may be jeopardised but also our ground water; wells and springs. There is also the visual aspect that will be negatively impacted, the noise and disturbance from 24-months of intensive construction and the impact on wildlife and human health during operation that it will cause.

My observation comes also comes from another point of view, from somebody who has seen the destruction of many of Earth's natural treasures in the name of greed.

During my travels, I was fortunate to visit some places of great natural beauty. One such place, was a beautiful white sand beach with crystal clear blue water in Bali, Indonesia. Like a magnet, thousands of tourists would seek it out. So impressed were these tourists, they wanted to take a bit of this magical beach home with them. Local entrepreneurs ended up using dynamite to blow up the coral reef, which instantly providing them with merchandise. However, it didn't take long for people to realise that the coral reef actually had served as a protective barrier. Now that was gone, sharks could now swim freely right up to the shoreline. Unfortunately, a few human limbs got chewed off, but almost worse than that, the once-amazing beach was completely covered

with water. The beach was gone. No reason for tourists to go there anymore. No more tourist industry.

The Na Pali coast on the island of Kauai, Hawaii is beautiful. A fantastic 12-mile hike to experience its unusual tall cliffs, trees and waterfalls. I was lucky to experience that...for about twenty minutes, early in the morning. The jungle sounds, the birds, the gushing sounds of water tumbling from great heights. A piece of heaven on earth that unfortunately everyone else wanted at the same moment. Suddenly, a very loud, mechanical throbbing-the kind that makes one's bones vibrate came over the horizon in the form of helicopters. Then another and another. Tourists who didn't or couldn't do the hike. Sadly, the relentless noise from these flying machines had a detrimental effect on wildlife and birds and what made the place special. Again, the very things that attracted visitors at the beginning had been destroyed.

I've witnessed the beautiful rivers, lush forests and mountains of the Appalachian Mountains destroyed by strip mining. Nothing left but ugliness, polluted land and water after the tops of over 500 mountain tops were removed. Uglyscapes. I could list many more such instances where thinking I had found a place of natural beauty where I could settle down there would soon follow with the threat of its destruction.

It wasn't so long ago that Ireland's rivers were renowned for their abundance of trout and salmon but because of man-made pollution and bad decisions they have declined. Local aquatic ecosystems are continually under threat and so are our boglands. Our delicate natural carbon sinks, the bogs and peatlands are vulnerable to interference causing landslides, particularly when subjected to construction projects. Even with proper environmental assessments, accidents do and will happen. Already, there have been numerous cases of wind turbines which have had a very negative impact on the environment around them, and these aren't even the gigantic ones like those being proposed. There are many recorded examples of landslides associated with wind farms such as the recent Derrybrien and Meenbrog disasters. It is almost inconceivable that one would even consider putting 14 of the some of the biggest turbines in production high up on a sensitive bogland, and already a designated Natural and Geological Heritage Area, with

sensitive waterway connections. To assume that this wouldn't really affect the environment, wildlife, water, plants and human beings is a big risk.

Do we really want to relinquish preservation of this extraordinary area of natural beauty that has come into being over many thousands of years? It is the very thing that drew many of us here in the first place. This our heritage. Trying to save the planet with such wind turbine projects by destroying natural ecosystems is nuts. What of the future when this national treasure is gone and we are left with the skeletons of the wind farm industry on this most beautiful of place? The price is far too high to pay.

Our ancestors and indigenous peoples around the world shared a deep respect for nature. They honoured the earth, water, air and sacred places. Human beings were not seen as rulers, but as part of an enormous, interconnected web. The Brehon Laws, which held the destruction of a sacred tree in the same category as the murder of a human, encouraged living in harmony with nature. We humans were considered stewards of the earth rather than people who practised private ownership and commercial exploitation of the land. It should be no different today.

I pray and hope that we will realise enough people will wake up in time to realise that our true wealth lies in our beautiful natural, sacred environment. This is what saving the planet is really about.

“Only when the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten, and the last stream poisoned, you will realize that you cannot eat money.”

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Lissinagroagh wind farm development.

Kind regards,

Jakki Moore

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Co. Leitrim