

Brian Bakeberg

FORMAL OBSERVATION — AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Proposed Development: Muingmore Wind Farm — 13 Wind Turbines, 180m Tip Height, County Mayo

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

Observer: Brian Bakeberg, Resident

Address: Geesala, Co. Mayo

Submission Deadline: 7 August 2026

Date: 17 July 2026

A Personal Observation

A Chara,

I am making this observation in my personal capacity as a resident of Geesala, County Mayo. I am aware that separate formal observations are being made by Rural West Environmentalists Limited and by the Erris Chamber of Commerce. This observation is different. It is about a personal decision my family made, what that decision meant, and what this development would take from us.

Why We Left Dalkey

In 2022, my wife Orla and I made a deliberate decision to leave Dalkey, County Dublin — a comfortable, well-connected, prosperous place by any measure — and move our lives and our business to Geesala in the Barony of Erris, County Mayo. People who know Dalkey and know

Geesala understand that this was not a small or casual decision. It was made with open eyes and with clear reasons.

We came for the landscape. We came for the quiet. We came for the dark skies, the Atlantic coast, the sense of a place that had not yet been absorbed into the noise and acceleration of modern Irish life. We came because we believed that Erris offered something increasingly rare — a place where it was still possible to think clearly, to work well, to live at a pace that makes sense.

We also came to contribute. We made the decision to base our company, An Even Better Place to Work — bp2w® — here, not in a city, not in a coworking hub in Dublin, but in Geesala. That was a statement about what we believed rural Ireland could be and what we wanted to be part of building.

What We Found

What we found here exceeded what we came looking for. The landscape of Erris is not merely scenic — it is actively restorative in a way that is difficult to describe to someone who has not experienced it. The quality of the light on Blacksod Bay. The silence at night, broken only by the Atlantic. The unobstructed view of the Milky Way from our garden, something I had not seen properly since childhood. The sense of scale and space that clears your head and puts things in proportion.

Our home looks out toward the site where RWE proposes to build 13 turbines at up to 180 metres in height. That view — the open bog, the sky, the way the light moves across the landscape toward the coast — is not peripheral to our life here. It is central to it. It is part of why we made the decision we made.

What This Development Would Take

I want to be specific. I am not making a general objection to renewable energy. I am making an objection to this development, on this site, at this scale, in this landscape.

Thirteen turbines at 180 metres tip height, with mandatory aviation warning lights flashing throughout the night, would permanently and irreversibly alter the character of this landscape. The view from our home, the quiet of our garden, the dark skies we came here to find — all of these would be changed, not temporarily, but for a 35-year operational life that extends to 2061.

We built our business here in part because of this environment. An Even Better Place to Work operates in 16 countries, serves enterprise clients including Yorkshire Water, Siemens Energy, and

NHS trusts, and has grown rapidly since we established our headquarters in Geesala. We bring clients here. We work here. The environment is not incidental to the business — it is part of what makes this place work as a base for a global company. That argument — that rural Ireland can compete for serious business investment precisely because of what it offers that cities cannot — depends entirely on the landscape and quality of life being what it is.

If this development proceeds, that argument becomes significantly harder to make. Not impossible — but harder. And for a business at our stage of growth, depending on Enterprise Ireland HPSU support and building toward scale, that matters.

A Request

I formally request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm. I ask the Board to consider not only the environmental and legal grounds set out in other submissions, but the human dimension of what this development would mean for the people who made a genuine choice to come to this place and invest their lives in it.

Mise le meas,

Brian Bakeberg

Geesala, Co. Mayo

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