

Corbin 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: Corbin Bakeberg, Resident, Geesala

Address: Geesala, Co. Mayo

Submission Deadline: 7 August 2026

Date: 17 July 2026

A Personal Observation

A Chara,

I am 32 years old. I live in Geesala. I am making this observation because this development, if permitted, will be operating for the next 35 years — which is, to be precise, my entire working life.

I want to say something about that before I say anything else. A 35-year operational life is not an abstract planning number. It means that a decision made in 2026 will still be defining the character of this landscape in 2061, when I am 67. That is not a temporary impact. It is a permanent one, framed in planning documents as if it were merely a long project duration.

Why I Am Here

My generation made different choices about where to live and work than previous generations did. We are the first generation for whom remote working is not an exception but a realistic default. We looked at what cities offered and what they cost — financially, environmentally, in terms of quality of life — and many of us concluded that the trade was not worth making.

I chose Geesala. Not because there were no other options, but because this place offers something specific that I value: space, quiet, a landscape that has not been overbuilt, a community that functions at a human scale, and proximity to a coast and a natural environment that is genuinely extraordinary. These are not minor lifestyle preferences. They are the conditions under which I do my best work and live my best life.

I opened my own business here Divetec Engineering we are the only commercial diving company in the region — its offices and premises are here precisely because of those conditions. We work extensively in the marine industry . We operate from a bog road in north Mayo. That is only possible because the environment supports it — the landscape, the quality of life, and increasingly the infrastructure. We are not here despite Geesala. We are here because of it.

What This Development Would Do to the Argument

The case for rural Ireland as a serious location for knowledge economy businesses rests on a specific set of propositions. That you can find high-quality talent willing to live outside cities. That the quality of life is a competitive advantage rather than a compromise. That the landscape and environment are assets, not just scenery.

Thirteen turbines at 180 metres tip height, with mandatory aviation warning lights operating through the night, visible from the town, audible across a landscape this quiet, would directly undermine those propositions. Not fatally, perhaps — but materially. Every time I try to recruit someone to come and work here, or make the case that Geesala is a serious place for a serious business, the existence of an industrial wind installation on the horizon is part of that conversation now. It does not have to be. It should not be.

I am also thinking about the tourism businesses, the accommodation providers, the activity companies, the fishing guides, and all the other enterprises in this area that depend on people choosing to come here because of what it looks, sounds, and feels like. My generation uses those businesses. We bring our own networks to places like this when we choose them as somewhere to live and work. That ecosystem of economic activity depends on the landscape being what it is.

The Thirty-Five Year Question

I will be 67 in 2061. I would like to still be living and working in Geesala. I would like the landscape I can see from where I am sitting right now to still be there. I would like the generation after mine — who are in Geesala National School at this moment, looking out at this same view — to have the same choice I had: to look at this place and decide it is somewhere worth building a life.

This development would take that choice away. Not for a season or a project cycle, but permanently. That is what I am asking An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider.

Formal Request

I formally request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

Mise le meas,

Corbin Bakeberg

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Geesala, Co. Mayo