

Damien Langan
America street
Belmullet
Co. Mayo
F26 W282
eurosaver2002@gmail.com

23 July 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Observation on Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development (Case Ref: PAX16.324387)

A Chara,

My name is Damien Langan. I am a resident of Belmullet and former president of Erris Chamber of Commerce, and I am writing to raise a number of substantive concerns regarding the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

I have followed this application closely, and I set out below the grounds on which I believe permission should be refused.

1. Cumulative and Landscape Impact

The proposed development involves thirteen turbines of up to 180 metres to blade tip, a scale without precedent in this part of Mayo. I do not believe the application adequately addresses the cumulative visual and landscape impact of a structure of this height set against a low-lying, largely undeveloped coastal landscape, nor its cumulative effect when considered alongside other renewable energy infrastructure already operating or proposed in the wider Erris area.

2. Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment

Blacksod Bay is a site of recognised ecological sensitivity, supporting protected habitats and species. Given the site's peatland hydrology and its proximity to the bay, I would ask the Board to satisfy itself that the Appropriate Assessment carried out under the Habitats Directive fully and robustly addresses the risk of construction-phase runoff and siltation reaching designated waters, and that mitigation proposed is enforceable and adequately resourced, not merely aspirational.

3. Grid Connection and Piecemeal Assessment

I would ask the Board to clarify whether grid connection works associated with this development have been assessed together with the wind farm itself, or dealt with as a separate application. Where infrastructure that is integral to a project's function is assessed separately from the generating development, there is a risk that the full environmental effect of the scheme is not considered as a single, complete project. I would ask the Board to confirm this has not occurred here.

4. Alternative Sites

I do not believe the application demonstrates that alternative, less sensitive sites were properly considered, as would ordinarily be expected for a project of this scale and environmental sensitivity.

5. Mayo County Council Renewable Energy Strategy

Mayo County Council's own Renewable Energy Strategy, adopted only last week, identifies peatland such as this as unsuitable for wind energy development, given the risk that construction on deep, waterlogged bog poses to carbon storage, water quality and the surrounding environment. This is the local authority's own considered position, reached independently of this application, and I would ask the Board to explain how a grant of permission here could be reconciled with it.

I want to be clear that I am not opposed to renewable energy, and I recognise the importance of the sector to this region's economy, having spent years working to support local enterprise through the Chamber. My objection is to this specific site and the deficiencies set out above, not to wind energy in principle.

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development.

Mise le meas / Yours sincerely,

Damien Langan
23 July 2026