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We at Erris at Night wish to make an observation re the planned wind turbine and storage facility proposed for Muingmor. We are also owner operators of a new small business in tourism which brings tourists on walking tours and hiking adventures enjoying the wilds of County Mayo.

We are a community organisation who meets bi-monthly to discuss matters of light pollution, nature, conservation, and protection of the wilderness. County Mayo has some of the darkest skies in all of Europe, with very little light pollution. We meet at Mullaghroe on the Mullet Peninsula, directly opposite the proposed turbines. This development will completely change our night sky viewing. Adding red lights to our skies is not only polluting them, but it will also affect our view of the stars and the Milky Way and alter our night sky forever.

European projects like Glow2.0 have granted millions of euros to the west coast of Ireland to help preserve our dark skies. This facility will undo the good work of Mayo Dark Skies Park, who aim to reduce light pollution further and preserve the pristine skies we are lucky enough to have. This development seeks to undo every step taken by the government bodies involved.

Dark skies affect every aspect of life, from the life cycle of insects, plants and mammals to the health, mental health and daily lives of humans. Our dark skies in Erris are what makes it so special.

We are not anti- renewable energy, we are not anti-turbine or NIMBYists, but this development does not belong here. This is a world-renowned Special Area of Conservation. The potential damage done to the thousands-of-years old bogland, the habitat loss for our most vulnerable birds and mammals, and the visible damage done to our night skies is simply not acceptable.

We stand with the other members of our group who feel this area should be treated with the respect that such a delicate ecosystem deserves. Please preserve our pristine night skies for future generations to gaze at. Please respect the wishes of this tightknit community and relocate these turbines, as per their wishes. Erris should not be the battery that powers the country. They get power while we get ecological destruction and red-light pollution in our skies.