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Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála
Planning Reference: ACP-324387-26
Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm, North Mayo

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a formal submission objecting to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development. I have lived in North Mayo for most of my life. Although I spent a number of years teaching in Dublin, I made the decision to return home because of the unique quality of life, the strong sense of community and the outstanding natural landscape that this area offers. My family has deep roots here, and it is a place that I care about immensely.

I am also a professional photographer, and over many years I have had the privilege of documenting the landscapes of North Mayo. Through my work I have come to appreciate not only their beauty but also their importance to our identity, our heritage and our local economy. Spending countless hours in these places has given me a deep appreciation of the ever-changing light, the rich biodiversity and the sense of wilderness that make this part of Ireland so special.

I recognise the importance of renewable energy and fully support Ireland's transition towards a more sustainable future. However, I believe renewable energy developments must be carefully located so that they do not cause irreversible damage to landscapes of exceptional natural value. In my opinion, this proposal does not achieve that balance.

North Mayo is recognised for its extraordinary natural beauty. The wild Atlantic coastline, the expansive blanket bogs, the Nephin Beg Mountains, Wild Nephin National Park, the Bangor Trail and the surrounding wilderness combine to create one of Ireland's most distinctive and unspoilt landscapes. The area also forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way and attracts visitors from across Ireland and abroad who come to experience its scenery, tranquillity and sense of remoteness.

As a photographer, I regularly meet people who have travelled specifically to experience and photograph this landscape. They come to capture the dramatic skies over Blacksod Bay, the rugged Atlantic coastline, the vast blanket bogs, mountains and the unique quality of light that North Mayo is renowned for. These landscapes are not simply beautiful—they are irreplaceable. They inspire artists, photographers, walkers, birdwatchers and nature lovers and are an important part of what makes this region unique.

The proposed development of thirteen industrial-scale wind turbines, together with a 110kV substation, Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure, would fundamentally alter the visual character of this landscape. Structures of this scale would become dominant features across a wide area, changing the experience of both residents and visitors. I am particularly concerned about the cumulative impact of existing and proposed wind energy developments throughout North Mayo. Each additional development changes the landscape incrementally, and over time these cumulative impacts risk eroding the very qualities that make this region exceptional.

The landscape is not only environmentally important but economically important. Tourism is a vital source of income for many families and businesses throughout North Mayo. Visitors support local accommodation providers, cafés, restaurants, shops, activity providers, artists and photographers because they are drawn by the area's unspoilt scenery and peaceful environment. Protecting this landscape is therefore not only an environmental issue but also an economic one.

I am also concerned about the potential impacts on biodiversity, birdlife, peatland habitats, water quality and the wider ecological network that characterises this region. North Mayo contains internationally important blanket bogs and sensitive habitats that deserve the highest level of protection. I respectfully ask that these environmental considerations are given significant weight in the assessment of this application.

As a teacher, I believe we have a responsibility to help future generations understand the value of our natural environment and the importance of protecting it. While renewable energy is essential for our future, I also believe we have a duty to ensure that developments are carefully planned so that our natural heritage is not unnecessarily compromised. Future generations deserve to inherit landscapes that continue to inspire, educate and provide a sense of place.

Returning home after many years away reinforced for me just how special North Mayo truly is. It is this landscape, this community and this way of life that drew me back. I hope future generations will have the same opportunity to experience the unspoilt beauty that has shaped my life and continues to inspire my work.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses planning permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Evita Coyle