

Jimmy Gilheany
Fenagh
Co. Leitrim

7 August 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

**Re: Case Reference PAX16.324387 – Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm, Barony of Erris, Co. Mayo
(Applicant: RWE Renewables (Ireland) Ltd)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make an observation on the above application and to set out my objections to the proposed development. I own a holiday home at Tarmon, Blacksod, Co. Mayo, directly across the bay from the proposed wind farm site, and I am a regular visitor to the Erris area. I ask that the Commission take the following points into account in its consideration of this application.

Grounds of Objection

1. An area of outstanding natural beauty. The Mullet Peninsula, Blacksod Bay and the wider Erris area constitute one of the most unspoilt and scenic landscapes in Ireland, forming part of the Wild Atlantic Way. The proposed development of up to thirteen turbines, at heights of up to 180 metres to blade tip, would be an industrial-scale intrusion into this landscape. Structures of this scale would be visible over a vast area, including across Blacksod Bay, and would permanently alter the character of a landscape whose entire value lies in its wildness and natural beauty.
2. Tourism is the area's only significant economic asset. Erris is an exceptionally remote area with very limited economic infrastructure – by way of illustration, the nearest cinema to Blacksod is in Ballina, some 82 kilometres away. The area has little else by way of industry or employment, but it has serious and growing tourism potential. Visitor numbers are increasing year on year, and local business people are investing in and providing an expanding range of services to attract tourists, including boat tours to the offshore islands and the Sonas visitor centre. Tourism represents the one realistic path to sustainable economic development for this community.
3. The development would undermine that potential. Visitors come to Erris precisely because of its unspoilt scenery, remoteness and tranquillity. Placing a large-scale wind farm in the middle of this landscape would remove the very qualities on which the area's tourism offering depends. The damage would not be confined to the immediate site: the visual impact would extend across the bay and throughout the peninsula, affecting every tourism business in the region. For an area with no alternative economic base, the risk of wrecking its principal asset for a 35-year industrial development is disproportionate and unacceptable.

4. Balance of harm. Whatever the merits of renewable energy generally, the benefits of this particular development do not justify the permanent harm it would cause to the landscape, amenity and economic prospects of the Erris area. Wind energy capacity can be located elsewhere; the landscape of Erris, once industrialised, cannot be recovered.

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

I enclose the prescribed fee of €50 in respect of this observation and ask that the Commission acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Yours faithfully,

Jimmy Gilheany