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18 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 Lorraine Brady and I am writing from Tallagh Hill, Erris, to make an observation on the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm. I was born in Elly Bay, Belmullet, and have lived in this area my whole life. My property looks directly out over the site where this development is planned, and over the bay that lies beyond it.

I am not writing this as an expert in planning law or ecology. I am writing it as someone who has looked out at this bay every day of her life, and who cannot stay quiet while it is put at risk for the sake of a project that does not belong here.

Blacksod Bay is not just scenery to the people who live around it. It is a living, protected place. It is home to rare maerl beds that have taken centuries to form, to seals and otters that raise their young along these shores, and to internationally important numbers of wintering birds, including species that are already in serious decline elsewhere in Ireland. This bay carries European and international protections precisely because it is one of the last places of its kind. Building thirteen turbines and their access roads on the peatland that drains straight into it puts every one of those protections, and everything they were designed to safeguard, directly at risk. Peat disturbed during construction does not stay where it is put. It washes down into the water that these birds, seals and rare seabed communities depend on to survive, and once smothered, a maerl bed or a seagrass meadow does not come back in any of our lifetimes.

Alongside that, I am deeply concerned for the people who will have to live beside this development. Turbines of the height proposed here, up to 180 metres to blade tip, are a different order of scale to anything this landscape has known. Erris gets ferocious, unbroken Atlantic wind for much of the year, and I am genuinely worried about the noise these turbines will produce in those conditions, for residents living close by, night after night, for the guaranteed 35 years of the project's life and likely well beyond it.

I understand that Mayo County Council's own Renewable Energy Strategy, adopted only last week, has identified peatland sites like this one as unsuitable for wind energy development, precisely because of the harm that construction on deep, waterlogged bog can do to carbon storage, water quality and the wider environment. When the local authority's own strategy says this land should be excluded, I struggle to see how this application can be reconciled with that finding.

I want to be clear that I am not against renewable energy. I want to see Ireland reach its climate goals as much as anyone. But that cannot come at the cost of a protected bay, a fragile blanket bog, and the wellbeing of the people who call this place home. This is the wrong site for a project of this size and scale.

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,

Lorraine Brady
18 July 2026