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An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

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

Dear Sir / Madam

My name is Lorraine Carolan. I was born and raised in Derrycorrib and returned to take care of my parents after a number of years away. Some of my ancestors were raised in the surrounding area of this proposed wind farm so I have connection to the place. I am therefore writing to object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

Paragraph A — Noise

Turbines of the height proposed for this site, up to 180 metres to blade tip, are a different order of scale to anything currently in this landscape. This area experiences very strong winds for most of the year and would this not generate significant noise for those living in the vicinity?

Paragraph B — Visual Impact

The landscape would be altered in a very negative way, the aesthetics would not in anyway be conducive to what one expects to see as part of the wild Atlantic way and alongside this have a very negative impact on tourism on which this area relies heavily upon.

Paragraph C — Shadow Flicker

As I understand shadow flicker can have a real effect on people's health and quality of life over time. I am asking the Board to look carefully at this piece and what the impact would be for those people living in the surrounding area.

Paragraph D — Wildlife and Environment

The effects on wildlife must be highlighted. We have kestrel, barn owl, heron, cuckoo and corncrake, not forgetting otters. Construction on the peatland risks actively damaging and degrading their habitat and one has to ask - is this not part of the Wild Atlantic Way which nationally is being lauded?

Paragraph E — Blacksod Bay

Blacksod Bay is a protected site, home to rare maerl beds, seals, otters and internationally significant numbers of wintering birds. The proposed site sits on peatland that drains directly towards the bay, and construction of this scale carries a real risk of silt and runoff reaching that water, damaging habitats that would not recover within any timeframe that matters to the species living there now.

Paragraph F — Property Value

This development would have a very negative impact on local property prices and in the surrounding areas.

Paragraph I — Mayo County Council Renewable Energy Strategy

Mayo County Council's own Renewable Energy Strategy which was adopted recently, identifies peatland such as this as unsuitable for wind energy development, because of the damage that construction on deep, waterlogged bog can do to carbon storage, water quality and the surrounding environment. This is the council's own considered judgement, reached independently of this application, and it is difficult to see how this development can be reconciled with it.

Please note I am not against renewable energy, it is important for Ireland but this particular location is not I believe, appropriate for a project of this scale.

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

Thank you

Kind regards

Lorraine Carolan

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