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An Bord Pleanála,
64, Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

25th February 2014

RE: GALWAY HARBOUR EXTENSION PI 61.PA.0033

Dear Sir,

I note the application to extend the harbour at Galway has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála. This is very welcomed news and we at Topaz support this application.

Topaz Energy Limited is a significant port customer at Galway. We import refined petroleum products (petrol, diesel, kerosene etc.) through the current harbour in consignments of approximately 4,000 tonnes.

Due to restrictions at the harbour in terms of depth of water, width of the approach channel and dock gates we are restricted in the size of oil tanker we can charter to deliver petroleum to our terminal at the Galway Harbour Enterprise Park. These smaller ship sizes have a material economic impact on our business and ultimately on our customers in terms of prices delivered to the forecourts and service stations in the region.

The extension of the harbour will allow us to charter larger ships, increase our throughput and improving the service to the region and hinterland of Connaught. Presently, Galway handles just over 7% of the national petroleum tonnage for Ireland which is a significant volume and demonstrates the importance of Galway as a strategic port for the region but also in a national context.

Topaz Energy Limited fully supports the extension of the harbour at Galway. The investment in 2009 in our new terminal was in excess of €25m and the facility is a key infrastructure for Galway and the west of Ireland. This new deep water facility will provide access to the sea for the ever increasing ship sizes, allowing us to deliver cost effective fuels in a safer, more efficient manner to the region and to maintain and increase employment at our facilities in the west.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Frank Bergin
Director, Chief Operations Officer

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