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Galway West Constituency

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10th March '14

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

11/3/14
CWESD
B12355

NAME	_____
DATE	11 MAR 2014
LETTERED	_____
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Re: Harbour Extension at Galway Harbour – PL61 PC 0150

A Chara,

I would like to make a submission in support of the proposed development of Galway Port.

As a former Director of Galway Harbour Board during the initial discussions on this new development I realise the potential to Galway and the West that could arise from a new, enhanced port. Galway is a maritime city with a proud history. The city developed around the port and the heart of the city is in close proximity to the existing and proposed new port.

The existing port facilities are unfortunately unsuitable for modern requirements. The port is in effect a 19th century facility unsuited to modern shipping formats and is unable to facilitate adequately the docking of large cruise liners and oil carriers. A new port would turn existing port facilities into a leisure facility including a marina while catering for modern cargo shipping on a newly developed site.

The new port would have rail links to the facilities, also due to be overhauled, at Ceannt station, in close proximity to the development. A bypass of Galway is in planning and is fully supported by Government. Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar has indicated that the Galway City Outer Bypass is the number one project in the country in terms of cost benefit analysis.

The development itself consists of two phases of land reclamation, the largest section being 19.86 ha to facilitate transfer of activities from the existing port facilities. A deepening of the access channel is envisaged as is a turntable to allow for safe docking at a new pier.



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A breakwater will be constructed at the head of the new pier while a second breakwater will allow for a 216 berth marina. This new port will not be dependent on tidal flows and the opening of gates thereby allowing more irregular shipping activities. The new port will allow Galway to compete with other ports as a modern facility for all existing activities. The new facility will give greater scope for additional activities not least with the planned rail access.

Galway port is at the heart of Galway City and as a result is a prime location for cruise liner visits. The city, as has been demonstrated by the Volvo Ocean Race, is alive and vibrant, a modern European city which retains integral aspects of our native Irish culture. Galway will attract cruise liner traffic and a new port will allow this traffic to grow. Connemara and the Burren lie within easy access of the port while the charm of the city itself is a huge attraction.

The positive economic potential of enhanced tourism capability at Galway Port is immense. Other European port cities have successfully harnessed this potential with economic, employment and social benefits. Barcelona, in Catalan, Spain, for example, has transformed itself from a port concerned mainly with commercial cargo and transportation to one which can now, at any one time, cater for up to nine cruise ships carrying 3,000 passengers. Without doubt, 27,000 additional visitors, on a daily basis at peak season, results in colossal benefits to Barcelona. A new, enhanced port facility capable of accommodating cruise liners, albeit on a smaller scale, can bring such benefits to Galway and the West of Ireland.

I fully support this plan for a new port in Galway. I believe the planned facility would be an enormously positive addition to Galway and the West and I hope for a positive assessment.

Le gach dea-ghui,



Sean Kyne TD