



Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin

5th March 2014

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
TIME _____ BY posh
06 MAR 2014
LTR-DATED _____ FROM ①
PL _____

The Enterprise Centre
Clare Rd, Ballyhaunis
Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 963 0311
Fax: 094 963 0636

Email: ballyhaunischamber@gmail.com
www.ballyhaunischamber.ie

RE: **PLANNING APPLICATION OF GALWAY HARBOUR COMPANY
REFERENCE 61.BA.0033.**

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
Received: 6/3/14
Fee: QESD
Receipt No. 8123448 -

Dear Sir

We write to you on behalf of this Chamber representing the business community of this region in support of the planning application of Galway Harbour Company for the extension of the Port of Galway.

Our Chamber was established in 1981 to develop and promote the business infrastructure and to represent business interests in this area. The Chamber represents businesses involved in heavy and light engineering, a nationally significant meat plant, a chicken distribution plant, a company involved in casing, all of which are heavily reliant on exports together with the usual spread of small industries and businesses which rely on the import and export of produce.

The Port of Galway is our nearest commercial port since it is only 40 miles away from all of these plants and the development of the port and its extension would greatly enhance the export and import of raw materials and produce which the businesses in this region and who we represent so rely on.

The Ports of Belfast, Dublin and Waterford are probably equi-distant from us but are too far for the business and industries that we represent in the present climate where the cost of transport of goods increases year on year.

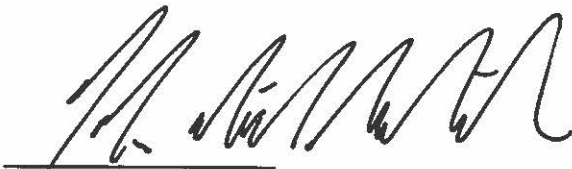
We have been fortunate in Ballyhaunis to attract industries which provide so much employment as those involved in heavy and light engineering, the meat business in particular which represents a large export of meat and meat products but the increasing transport costs to distant ports represents a threat to our member industries and to the employment which is so badly needed in the West at this time. At present these Companies employ around 870 people.

It is therefore crucial for the retention of these industries, that there be ready access to a modern port and we are familiar with the extension proposals for Galway Port, which proposals have our full backing. We believe the extension of the port is crucial to the development of existing industries here and the attraction of additional Industries which the creation of a modern port with deep sea facilities will bring about.

Our industries exist in a region which is peripheral but the proposed development of Galway port coupled with the improvement of road access to it, which will come about by virtue of the arc extension for the western seaboard, will enable the retention of the existing businesses and future expansion of industry for what is essentially a rural environment.

We would welcome the opportunity to attend in person to present our case in support of the application as we consider that the retention of rural industries coupled with the opportunity of developing more industries in this area will depend on the extension of the Galway port facilities.

Yours sincerely



Mr. John Dillon-Leetch
Ballyhaunis Chamber Council Executive



Anne Cunnane
CEO

Enc: €50 Postal Order

