

Thank you board for the opportunity to speak here today.

My name is John Ryan. I am the Forestry Manager of the Murray Timber Group, which has plants in Galway and in Carlow. We employ some 200 people at our sawmills at Ballygar, where we are one of the few local employers.

We source our timber logs from Scotland, which we convert into construction, garden and other timber products.

The timber business is a highly competitive sector where price is a key determinant for achieving sales, and so it is important for us that our transport costs are as low as possible.

The proposed harbour extension will enable us to use larger vessels than at present and will provide us with a greater degree of certainty in relation to the timing of our raw material.

The larger vessels will allow us to benefit from economics of scale, protect jobs and enable us to grow our business.

We estimate that, with the harbour extension in place, we should be able to import up to 100,000 tonnes of timber logs through Galway in a short number of years.

We therefore strongly support the proposed development at Galway Port

AMOUNT	PL	DESCRIPTION
TIME	16.10	MURRAY TIMBER
		27 JUN 2013
LTR-DATED	24	FROM
PL	PA0033	