

From: [REDACTED] Personal Information redacted
To: [PLANNING CPU](#)
Subject: Wind Energy Variation
Date: Friday 3 June 2022 10:05:04

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Dear Donegal Co. Council,

I'm writing to express my utter dismay at the addition of St. Johns Point to the variation of your wind energy policy 2018-2024 as a site to develop windmills (Part A Section 2, Appendix 2, point 4). St. Johns Point has been home to my descendents [REDACTED] Refers to family names [REDACTED] for generations. They have fished the shores, farmed the land, taught the locals, been parish priest [REDACTED] Refers to name [REDACTED], laid the roads etc. During hard times, they risked the dangerous journey to America but they also risked the journey back to return to this special place.

I consider myself incredibly lucky to have grown up on the peninsula, and that it is such a special place is clear from the reactions of friends and family we have brought to the Point over the years. The reactions of them, the hordes of tourists and divers driving the road every week comes with a reason, that is its raw unspoilt landscape and nature. Not to mention, having a number of ringforts dating back to the Bronze age, a church dating back to the 12th century, with a cross dating back to around 650AD, Mc Swyne's Castle, a beach unusual for its corel sand, as well as great diving and fishing.

St. Johns Point is a beacon, guiding boats to the safety of Killybegs harbour. That includes cruise ships carrying 1000s of passengers each year, with St. Johns Point being one of their first views of Irish shores. Driving from Sligo along the coast to Bunglass Point, a scenic route, St. Johns Point often creeps into view, a view I look at with pride.

Energy and climate change is clearly a dilemma of our age, particularly during this terrible war. We need to make changes, we need to invest in alternatives such as wind energy. Donegal is in its entirety a beautiful place and the placement of windmills will always be controversial, will always be difficult but that said, I truly believe it would be a travesty to place them on St. Johns Point. I urge you to look at the aerial photos of St. Johns Point from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (available on Instagram/facebook). Refers to names Look at those photos and tell the locals where the windmills belong. The place is stunning, the scenery is stunning and windmills just do not belong there.

Having spent a lot of time in the Netherlands, I can tell you, look at the Dutch, look at their smart placement of windmills. As you fly into Schiphol, look out the window of the airplane and see the windmill parks (generating more energy than they would have on land) on the North Sea, mostly not in sight from land. Better alternative sites can be found.

I and all of the locals urge you to re-think this, urge you to remove it from your Variation to the Wind Energy Plan. Consider not only the free land on St. Johns Point but also the other added value St. Johns Point adds to the County and the damage windmills would do to this. The residents association of St. Johns Point, which my mother is a member of, would gladly enter discussions with you on this. They are appalled.

Kind regards,
Alan Cunningham



Personal Information redacted