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From: [Redacted] Personal Information redacted
Sent: Tuesday 31 May 2022 13:09
To: PLANNING CPU
Subject: Submission to support the new Variation of Wind Energy Policy in 2018-2024 CDP
Attachments: 20220531 Submission to WEPF BBA.pdf

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Dear Sir, Madame,

find enclosed my submission in regard to the **Proposed Variation to the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 (As Varied) in respect of a Wind Energy Policy Framework**

Kind regards
Bettina Bartmann

Submission in favor of the **Variation of Wind Energy Policy in 2018-2024 CDP**

For years we were without a development plan in respect of a wind energy policy and now I am glad that Council finally intends to place some restraint on turbines.

I support the new Variation of Wind Energy Policy in 2018-2024 CDP

- because I firmly believe that Donegal has done more than its fair share in the rollout of turbines. Compared to many counties we are at saturation point
- because over the years Inishowen and Donegal had more wind turbines than most Counties in Ireland and this is reflected in the landscape where any approach to Buncrana is dominated by turbines surrounding the town in the landscape and on the skyline.
- because I approve of putting turbines ten times their height from homes. This can only lead to better protection for people having to endure living beside large industrial windfarms, and will help reduce secondary effects of wind induced noise, ill health or annoyance (see attachments)
- because I am in favour of your Map 8.2.1/ Wind Energy that shows most of the county as not normally permissible
- because it is my opinion that it is high time to protect the areas of EHSA, because these are our natural gems we have to protect for our children
- because I agree that there shall never be any turbines in the stunning Gweebarra river valley
- because I do not want any turbines in Glenveagh National Park area
- because I strongly believe that it is very important to protect fresh water pearl mussel.
- because there should be no turbines in bog lands
- because I believe the main income in the future will be generated by our tourism industries we have to protect the natural gems of our County

With it the image of the "Emerald Island" in Europe still intact at the moment, Tourism must definitely have the highest priority for us in Donegal. For this, the natural treasures of Donegal must be preserved. European tourists come to Ireland to experience a pristine landscape that they have already lost in their home countries (see attached pictures from Germany). In recent times, Donegal's natural scenery and the Wild Atlantic Way have made County Donegal a popular destination for Filmmakers and visitors alike. This is

reflected in the good reviews and high ratings people give Donegal in travel guides. This creates a very positive image of the county both at home and abroad and will contribute to the development of a sustainable tourism industry.

It is therefore to be welcomed that in the new Variation of Wind Energy Policy regarding to the new WEP, wind farms shall not be acceptable in the proximity of Glenveagh National Park, in the Gweebarra, in areas of Extremely High Scenic Amenity or in St John's Point. These truly are amongst the grandest of Donegal's remaining wilderness areas.

I whole heartedly applaud these significant exclusion zones in the new WEP

In my opinion, the condition of the coastal areas are of major importance for a successful tourism industry and therefore not only the EHSA but as well all the SAC in Donegal, e.g. the North Inishowen Coast SAC, should be included in the new WEP.

I wonder why the already "protected" Special Protection Areas (SPA) are not mentioned by name in the WEP.

In recent years Donegal has become perhaps the most popular visitor destination on the Wild Atlantic Way and that is a scenic reputation that we should not tarnish by further expanding wind farm projects. Lonely Planet, British royals, cruise ship goers, Hollywood Film crews, hikers and hill walkers all have Donegal on their must-visit bucket list. It is my opinion that it is high time to protect the areas of EHSA, because these are our natural gems we have to protect for our children.

In my opinion, only one renewable energy technology meets all the requirements, namely wave and tidal energy. These structures are invisible and generate energy there constantly, regardless of wind or sunshine. Unfortunately, this technology of wave and tidal energy is still in the development stage. But I think that we have to start planning further into the future than we have up to now and make our own experiences with wave and tidal energy.

With the existing technology of solar and wind power plants, it is quicker and easier to generate a profit. However, this profit comes directly at the expense of the unspoiled nature in Donegal.

Therefore I am in favour of your Map 8.2.1/ Wind Energy that shows most of the county as not normally permissible. However, I accept the logic that areas already despoiled by turbines can be considered for upgrade works. It seems to me to be common sense to allow outdated low power turbines be replaced, on the same site, with a far smaller number of more powerful turbines.

Thus, Donegal can still be committed to wind power without without destroying further, previously untouched landscapes such as peatlands, green field areas, coastlines, forests or bogs.

The disastrous Meenbog bog burst has caused huge environmental damage and destroyed fish life in the Mourne river. We have an obligation to our children to learn from these grave mistakes and protect the land.

I am convinced that if we manage to build up and maintain a sustainable tourism industry, all other industries such as agriculture, services, shipping and retail will automatically win. A win-win situation for all areas of business.

But therefore we have to protect the landscapes and coastlines of Donegal! The image of the "Emerald Island" must have the highest priority for Donegal. The natural treasures of Donegal must be preserved.

Yours sincerely

Bettina Bartmann



Personal Information redacted

1. Attachment Newspaper Articles in regard of wind induced noise...

French court awards damages for "wind turbine syndrome"

<https://www.power-technology.com/news/industry-news/wind-turbine-syndrome-france-court-ruling/>

Bald Hills Wind Farm ordered to stop emitting night-time noise, pay neighbours damages in landmark ruling

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-25/bald-hills-wind-farm-to-pay-damages/100938656>

Court ruling means wind farms must provide more information on noise

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/energy-and-resources/court-ruling-means-wind-farms-must-provide-more-information-on-noise-1.4469418>

2. Attachment Pictures from all over my home country Germany.

I suggest you do not duplicate the mistakes that were made in Germany. In the year 2021 approximate 117.3 terawatt (TW) electricity were produced in Germany by wind energy. This equals to approximately 20 % of the total energy production in Germany.

That means that only 20% of the needed electricity for Germany were produced with circa 29,608 (twenty-nine thousand and six hundred and eight) wind turbines.

Pictures cannot reflect the real impression, but believe me it is an oppressive view, not nice at all and by now it is impossible to stand anywhere outside a town or village in Germany, turn around your own axis **without** seeing wind turbines.

Believe me this is not what you want for Donegal, for Inishowen or for your family and friends.











