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1<sup>ST</sup> June 2022

Dear Planner.

RE County Development Plan – Changes to Wind Energy Policies

I am writing in support of crucial changes which Council propose to make on Wind Energy Policies contained in the 2018 - 2024 County Development Plan.

I am of the firm belief that Donegal has committed more than its fair share in the rollout of turbines across the county, in comparison to many other counties we are at saturation point, therefore we now need to aim to protect our beautiful landscapes and conserve our valuable peatlands – after all they are planet earth's main carbon store.

I wholeheartedly am both delighted and relieved that Council finally intends to place some restraint on turbines. I am in favour of your map 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 It seems to me to be common sense to allow outdated low power turbines to be replaced, on the same site, with a far smaller number of more powerful turbines, thus, Donegal can still be committed to wind power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 destroying other greenfield, often peatland sites.

I believe that a lesson must be learnt from the disaster that happened in the meenbog landslide. The shame and embarrassment that this brought on those involved in granting planning to this doomed site. The fact that concerns were raised and submitted and in turn were totally overlooked by planning officials is shameful. The repercussions of this landslide will have major impacts on the surrounding areas for years to come. It soured the rivers that the pollution flowed into as well as the relationship with our Tyrone neighbours. Donegal county council must listen to any concerns raised going forward as these concerns are from the people who live and know these areas. The images of trees floating down rivers of the meenbog landslide which appeared on worldwide social media made Donegal County council a

laughingstock as it was them that original opened and gave this area the green light for being suitable for development, learn from your mistakes!

I believe wind farms should not be permitted in bogland areas and those susceptible to peat slides, this would be a simple solution to prevent any further disastrous bog bursts like Meenbog in 2021, which has caused huge environmental damage and destroyed fish life in the Mourne Beg River. The disastrous Meenbog landslide was in a medium to low-risk landslide susceptibility area, yet this massive peat slides still occurred, now the Mourne Beg, Dreg and Foyle River systems have suffered greatly from this ecological disaster and therefore no further development of this type should be considered in this area. Furthermore, Cashelnavern LCA contains many areas susceptible to peat slippage risks therefore no wind development should be permissible in this area in the future.

I also welcome the separation distance proposal of the ten times tip height from homes. This gives homeowners some confidence and protection from the known negative health factors namely noise pollution, shadow flicker and electromagnetic frequencies.

I wish to voice my concerns supporting the following:

- No turbines on areas deemed of high, medium or low susceptibility to Landslides.
- No further wind turbine developments in the Cashelnavern LCA 40
- No turbines within the Glenveagh National Park, and surrounding area.
- No turbines in the Finn valley.
- No turbines in areas of EHSA.
- No turbines in freshwater pearl mussel catchments
- No turbines in St John's Point

I Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this public consultation, and hope that my views are taken into consideration.

Signature: \_\_\_Niall Gallen\_\_\_\_\_

Name: (block caps) \_\_\_Niall Gallen\_\_\_\_\_