

Ref: Trydan Glyn Cothi SIP CAS-04623-L7W9D0

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to formally express strong objection and concern regarding the plans and proposals to construct wind turbines in the Brechfa Forest East area, south of Rhydcymerau, as well as the wider implications for Wales regarding other proposed onshore windfarm developments. The project, in its current form, appears ill-considered, environmentally damaging, and driven primarily by profit rather than a genuine commitment to sustainable green energy.

Outlined below are key areas of concern. This list is not exhaustive.

Visual and Health Impacts

The proposed 230-metre turbines are to be situated extremely close to residential properties, with several located within 1 kilometre of existing dwellings. Their visibility would dominate the local skyline and for those living nearby, create issues such as shadow flicker, which affects the quality of life and has a negative impact on residential amenity.

Light Pollution

The introduction of red aviation warning lights on turbines exceeding 200 metres will disrupt the natural dark sky, affecting both human residents and nocturnal wildlife.

Noise and Vibration

Turbine noise and potential ground vibration from such large structures built near residential areas are major concerns. Research has shown that persistent unnatural, mechanical noise can negatively affect wellbeing. Previous assessments have been based on much smaller turbines. 230m turbines are likely to produce stronger pulses and so be more impactful. No modelling is currently available to inform health and safety on this matter.

Infrasound and Health Risks

Peer-reviewed studies suggest infrasound from turbines of this scale may present serious health concerns for some humans and animals. Given the unprecedented height and proximity of these proposed turbines additional assessment is needed, as the current assessment tool is outdated and measures noise but not infrasound.

Microplastic Pollution

Large turbine blades can shed several kilos microplastics per year. Over time this will build up, contaminating surrounding soil, farmland, and waterways — contradicting current Welsh Government initiatives aimed at reducing such pollution.

Water Table and Flood Risk

The massive quantities of concrete required for turbine foundations risk altering local hydrology and

water tables. This may increase flooding, landslip and erosion risks in an area already prone to heavy rainfall.

Tourism and Local Economy

West Wales depends heavily on rural tourism. The industrialisation of its natural landscapes with towering turbines could deter visitors, harming local hospitality businesses and, by extension, rural livelihoods.

Housing and Community Impact

The proposed development will likely cause property devaluation, and make properties undesirable, making it difficult for residents to sell their homes. Some needing to move will effectively become trapped, limiting their life choices and consigning them to stay and endure the effects of living in close proximity to an industrial site. Younger generations may move away as has been evidenced from established developments.

Environmental Destruction

The production, transport, and installation of these turbines — often involving manufacturing abroad and the destruction of local forests and peatlands — runs counter to the stated aims of reducing carbon emissions.

Employment Concerns

Most specialist construction and maintenance roles will likely be filled by external contractors, providing little lasting employment for local people. The claims of tens of thousands of jobs being created in the on-shore wind sector is not believable.

Energy Inefficiency

Current grid limitations often lead to “constraint payments” — large sums paid to shut off turbines during excess generation. This inefficiency raises consumer energy costs and undermines claims of sustainable benefit.

In summary, this proposal represents an unacceptable level of risk to local communities, wildlife, and the Welsh landscape — all for limited environmental gain and disproportionate social costs.

I respectfully request that:

- The concerns outlined above are fully considered, and these concerns, held by many local residents, are represented, by those appointed to do so, at all appropriate opportunities.
- Authorities act transparently and in the best interests of local residents and the natural environment.

Failure to address these issues would represent a serious dereliction of duty in balancing environmental, social, and economic responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

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