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Energy Green Paper Submissions
Energy Planning Division
Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources
Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

RE: IWEA SUBMISSION ON THE GREEN PAPER
'TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE FOR IRELAND'

Dear Sir/Madam

Meitheal na Gaoithe are pleased to support the IWEA submission on the Green Paper 'Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland'. Meitheal na Gaoithe (Irish Wind Farmers Cooperative Society Limited) was formed against a backdrop of The 1999 Electricity Regulation Act and emerged from the desire of a number of interested farmers and community minded individuals to ensure that the harnessing and marketing of 'green' energy does not become the sole property of bigger power generators and supply companies, thereby ensuring that market liberalisation and competition as envisaged under the Act is achieved. Both the Irish Farmers Association and the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association have given their support to the co-operative. MnaG embraces the mutual help ethos of the traditional farming structure from which they have drawn their name and inspiration.

Our organisation encourages and facilitates the development of renewable energy in dispersed geographic locations and on a relatively small-scale that would not be considered viable by large developers. These projects become feasible through local ownership, with the individual or community carrying the full risk in the development phase and with the maximum economic benefit accruing locally after completion. In this way renewable energy benefits the rural community where the project is located, whilst on a wider level the misunderstandings of the technology involved and the issues surrounding planning and siting of turbines do not hamper the responsible development of wind energy in Ireland.

The 2001/77/EC Directive commonly known as the RES-E Directive lays the foundation for the development of renewable electricity generation and it is worth noting some of the more salient points;

Article 6 - Administrative procedures

1. Member States or the competent bodies appointed by the Member States shall evaluate the existing legislative and regulatory framework with regard to

authorisation procedures or the other procedures laid down in Article 4 of Directive 96/92/EC, which are applicable to production plants for electricity produced from renewable energy sources, with a view to:

- *Reducing the regulatory and non-regulatory barriers to the increase in electricity production from renewable energy sources.*
- *Streamlining and expediting procedures at the appropriate administrative level and ensuring that the rules are objective, transparent and non discriminatory and take fully into account the particularities of the various renewable energy source technologies.*

Section 19 states “*When favouring the development of a market for renewable energy sources, it is necessary to take into account the positive impact on regional and local development opportunities, export prospects, social cohesion and employment opportunities, especially as concerns small and medium-sized undertakings as well as independent power producers*”.

It is strikingly clear that the SME development of wind energy has in fact become more difficult in the past 6 years and it is of the utmost importance that the RES –E Directive be implemented immediately and in full. The risk to SME developers has been greatly increased by the failure to ensure that the fundamental requirements of the directive are met by the various bodies responsible for renewable energy deployment.

The main issues that our members wish to highlight in the IWEA submission are;

- Interface Grid Connection
- Viable flexible and open ended Feed in Tariff
- Strategic zoning for planning permission

I hope that the united voice of the wind energy industry will be heard in the Energy Policy discussion and that the new energy policy will support the development of our most abundant and competitive indigenous energy source.

Yours sincerely



Thomas W Cooke
Chairman Meitheal na Gaoithe

This document is for publication.