



Tawnaghmore, Bellacorick, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

Registration No: 5546R

October 16th, 2011

To whom it may concern

Atlantic Coast Energy Co-operative Society Limited (ACE) supports the development of the proposed Pumped Storage Hydro-Electric plant at Glinsk, Co Mayo. Mayo Council Council estimate on-shore wind capacity within its wind energy strategy at over 28GW¹. The Department of Energy lists County Mayo as having the best wind energy resource in Ireland². The sustainable development of these excellent renewable energy resources is supported by local, regional, national and EU policy.

Wind is an intermittent resource so refinery and storage technologies that make wind energy reliable and predictable are essential to the development of the wind resource. Steven Chu³, US Energy Secretary and Nobel Laureate in Physics, described pumped storage as “a perfect system for trying to -- going to a much higher renewable system” in February, 2009⁴. An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, has called for greater investment in pumped storage a number of times⁵.

Dermot Byrne, CEO of Eirgrid - the all island electricity system Transmission System Operator, told a Dáil committee “Power system operators love storage because it gives us a lot of flexibility”⁶. In November 2009, the EU Commission promised action to “Re-establishing Europe’s leadership on electricity storage ”⁷.

ACE calls on the planning authorities to support the proposed development and calls on the developer to commit to the establishment of a community fund to benefit the local community impacted by the project in the event it goes ahead.

1 http://www.mayococo.ie/en/Planning/DevelopmentPlansLocalAreaPlansandStrategies/RenewableEnergyStrategy/Document1_16467,en.pdf

2 <http://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2010-11-02.1855.0>

3 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Ch

4 Remarks on the Nation's Energy Future, Feb18, 2009 <http://www.riverbankpower.com/usercontent/photos/US%20Energy%20Secretary%20Steven%20Chu%20on%20Pumped%20Storage.pdf>

5 <http://www.politics.ie/fine-gael/37895-enda-kennys-speech-fine-gael-party-conference.html#post1292030> & <http://www.rte.ie/news/2009/0404/kennyspeech.html> & <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vi8yLAdCKyI>

6 Joint Committee on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Electricity Generation: Discussion with EirGrid, 6 February 2008. <http://debates.oireachtas.ie/MAJ/2008/02/06/00003.asp>

7 Energy 2020 . A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy . <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0639:FIN:EN:PDF>