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Energy Consents Unit  
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Bachan Burn Wind Farm §36 Application by Brookfield Renewables (ref. no. ECU00000240)

As a visitor to the Dunoon area, I strongly object to this proposal for an industrial-scale wind farm of 17 gigantic turbines on the hill-tops above Dunoon. My objection is based on numerous reasons, including the following.

**Damaging Visual Impact.** The proposed wind farm would be hugely prominent, intrusive to the landscape and visible across vast areas of the Inner Clyde Estuary affecting virtually all visitors to Cowal and the Inverclyde Coast, especially those travelling by ferry or cruise ship or road. In rejecting a similar but smaller wind farm proposal on these hills in 2009 the Inquiry Reporter was clear: “Because of its conspicuous position on the spine of a peninsula the wind farm would have unacceptable adverse impacts on visual amenity”.

**Unsuitable Location.** The proposal is quite inappropriate for the great scenic landscape value of this location. I believe the proposal is contrary to the Argyll & Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study and also incompatible with Argyll & Bute Local Development Plan policies. Scottish Natural Heritage, the Government’s official advisory body, do not consider the proposed site to be appropriate for this kind of development.

**Adverse Effect on Dunoon’s Vital Tourism Industry.** Dunoon is a designated National Park Gateway town, where visitors have for generations come to enjoy the high quality landscape of sea and mountain - the basis for the area’s crucial tourism industry. A wind farm’s adverse impacts on visual amenity would seriously diminish the attractiveness of the area for tourist visitors, many of whom might choose to visit areas of natural beauty unspoiled by industrial wind farms. This was one of the reasons for the refusal of smaller wind farm proposals on the Cowals hills in 2009, which the Inquiry Reporter warned would “...have an unacceptably high risk of causing significant deterrence to tourism, which is of exceptional economic importance.”

**Negative Effects on Wildlife.** The noise, wind turbulence, and light flicker from wind turbines can adversely affect and even drive away wildlife - and can certainly kill bats and birds as well. The Cowal Hills are host to a variety of species, many of which are protected, and these would be under grave threat from the proposed development. The negative impact on wildlife would further diminish the attractiveness of the area for visitors.

I support the development of non-polluting sources of energy for Scotland, but the Bachan Burn wind farm proposal is clearly ‘the wrong scheme in the wrong place’ and I urge the Scottish Ministers to refuse this application, as they did for two similar but smaller proposals in 2009.

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Address: .....