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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 resident of the Inverclyde/North Ayrshire Coast, I greatly value the beautiful landscape of the Cowal Hills as viewed our side of the water. But those wonderful views would be ruined if the industrial-scale wind farm of 17 gigantic turbines on the hill-tops above Dunoon is built. I strongly object to the Bachan Burn proposal for this and other reasons, including the following.

**Adverse Visual Impact.** The proposed wind farm would be hugely intrusive, visible from virtually all of the Eastern shore of the Clyde Estuary. It would adversely dominate the scenic landscape not only for those living here but also for those travelling by ferry, cruise ship, private boat, or car. 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 totally 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. Inverclyde and North Ayrshire have raised objections to previous wind farm proposals for the Cowal Hills. Scottish Natural Heritage, the Government’s official advisory body, consider the proposed site to be inappropriate.

**Adverse Effect on the Clyde’s Vital Tourism Industry.** An industrial development of this nature would have serious adverse effects on the local tourism industry. The growing cruise ship trade to Greenock would be endangered, and successful water-based enterprises such as Kip Marina could suffer badly if boat owners choose to berth at marinas out-with the area because they still offer unspoiled views. The desirability of the Clyde as a venue for the Tall Ships Gathering would be seriously diminished. How many visitors would continue to drive the A78 coastal route from Greenock to Largs if the views were of giant wind turbines?

**Damaging Impact on Inverclyde/North Ayrshire Residents.** The light flicker effects of the hill-top turbines could be massively disturbing to people living in our area, especially with the setting sun shining through the revolving blades directly into the eyes of those on the Eastern side of the Clyde. Along with the loss of visual amenity and the damage to tourism, these negative impacts would significantly diminish the attractiveness of the area for visitors and its desirability as a place to live – with damaging effects on local property values.

I generally support the development of non-polluting sources of energy, 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: .....