Support from Members of the Public

Member of the Public 5013

From:	**[Redacted]**
To:	MD Marine Renewables
Subject:	Colonsay Community Council's Objection to Machair
Date:	05 August 2026 09:23:14

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write this as a direct response to Colonsay Community Council's objection to the proposed Machair Wind Offshore Wind Farm which was sent to me as a resident of the Isle of Colonsay a few days ago.

My position is in complete opposition to that taken by Colonsay Community Council and I am a bit disappointed that I received no prior notice that this objection was going to be published.

The document has clearly been written by less than 3 individuals (of the ~130 permanent residents) and from my experience of talking about this project to other islanders, I believe it does *not* represent the majority of islander's views, nor those of the owners of most holiday homes on the island.

The document starts with the following quote "Wilderness and the idea of wilderness is one of the permanent homes of the human spirit. If we lose wilderness, we lose forever the joy and wonder of what the world is. These are islands in time and there will be no greater grief than the loss of our native seascape." Whilst I entirely concur with the sentiment, the reality is that this wind farm, like any other, is not going to be there forever. It is a stop-gap measure to prevent the continued destruction of our *global* environment through the unnecessary burning of entirely finite and colossally valuable fossil fuels and will remain in place only until a cheaper way to make electricity has been developed. This could be fusion generated power and/or solar energy beamed down from low Earth orbit (amongst others) both of which are already being seriously explored/developed (in the latter case, see Overview Energy, Space Solar, and Aetherflux).

My fundamental position boils down to the fact that the objectors to the scheme appear to me to be so small-minded that they are prepared to accept the potentially devastating, if not indeed existential, consequences to our civilisation from the continued burning of fossil fuels when we have an entirely acceptable and affordable alternative … all simply for the sake of a maintaining a 'nice view'.

There are lots bits to this extraordinarily long and flowery document most of which contain extremely flimsy references to all sorts of legislation that ordinary people will have zero interest in particularly given that most of it is based on a very subjective interpretation of very unspecific points. To pick just a few:

Introduction
3. This paragraph mentions the fact that Colonsay 'faces west'. Certainly the west coast of Colonsay faces west (!) however the vast majority of the population of this island live in homes that have principal outlooks that either point internally (eg 90% of Kilchatten) or are on the east coast and consequently their direct view of the landscape/seascape will not be affected one jot by this wind farm.

4. I do not believe that the person/s who wrote this document (it certainly wasn't the entire council) seriously believes that they would be any more ready to accept a small wind farm as a large one. The simple fact at this point is, we really do not know what the visual impact of the proposed wind farm will be because it doesn't yet exist. The turbines involved have not been selected and their specific siting is equally unclear. I'm not disputing for one minute that any wind farm in the proposed area would not have a significant visual impact to anyone looking in its general direction from anywhere on the west coast of Colonsay. What very much concerns me is that most people have a wildly exaggerated expectation of just how significant the visual impact will be, and as usual, have not bothered to make any effort to acquire an understanding of what that visual impact may be. This could be relatively easily done by viewing seascapes from other parts of the UK and elsewhere that have already had substantial wind farms built, using facilities such as Google Maps, etc, or indeed, going and visiting one.

There is also a significant misunderstanding/hysteria surrounding various technical aspects of the

proposed wind farm; the last one I heard being that the same sort of foundations will be used for the offshore wind turbines that are used for onshore ones, ie vast quantities of cast concrete which is patently (and very easily verifiably) nonsense.

6. "…it would irrevocably devastate the setting and sense of place…". Again, totally over the top use of adjectives implying permanence, enormity and inappropriateness relating to the proposed wind farm. All of it mostly unfounded.

At this point I gave up reading the document as it descends into a examination in minutiae of all sorts of legal hogwash.

I failed to find a single reference to the 2 main advantages of having a wind farm on our doorstep: 1/ that the entire island would almost always (certainly in winter) be consuming renewable electricity and 2/ the community would earn what I understand could be a very tidy sum of cash by way of a 'community benefit' payment. The ends to which such funds could be put is as endless as the impact on the island and its community would be profound.

Bottom line here is that we *all* need renewable energy because we *all* need electricity. The Machair wind farm proposal is as good, if not better, than many and we are just being selfish, hypocritical NIMBYs if we object to it.

[Redacted]

Member of the Public 5014

From: [Redacted]
To: MD Marine Renewables
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Machair Wind
Date: 08 August 2026 21:50:13
Attachments: image086879.png
image847885.png
image658954.png
image046883.png
image971498.png
image207838.png
image501189.png
image701647.png

Dear Sir /Madam
I would like to express my strong support for MachairWind Offshore Wind Farm as someone who was born and raised on the Island.
My husband and I have been running a successful family business on the Isle of Mull for nearly 40 years and we believe this project would be hugely beneficial for neighbouring islands and the wider West Coast.
This project has the potential to generate jobs in a new sector, diversify the local economy of Argyll and Bute, encourage younger people, and add resilience to fragile rural communities. Additionally, community benefit funding from the project would be a great boost, enabling communities to deliver important local projects of their own.
Not withstanding the obvious benefits a clean energy project like this brings to Scotland and society as whole, the possible impacts from the project would be outweighed by the benefits that Machair wind would bring to Islands like Mull.

[Redacted]

Sent privately names not to be published

Sent from my iPhone

[Redacted]
[Redact
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[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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Member of the Public 5015

From:	**[Redacted]**
To:	MD Marine Renewables
Subject:	MachairWind - Letter of Support
Date:	09 August 2026 17:59:39
Attachments:	image650484.png image587214.png image620915.png image928481.png

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To Whom it may concern,

We are writing as residents of the Isle of Mull and owners of local businesses to express our support for the proposed MachairWind offshore wind farm.

Mull and Iona have never stood still. Our islands have changed over generations, and every generation has had to adapt to new opportunities, new industries and new ways of living. If we'd always resisted change, we don't think Mull and Iona would be the places they are today. Tourism has grown, aquaculture has become a major local employer, and technology has transformed how we live and work. None of that happened overnight, but together it's helped build the strong, vibrant communities we have now.

Renewable energy is simply the next step. Scotland has some of the best natural resources in the world for offshore wind, and projects like MachairWind give us the chance to play a positive part in producing cleaner energy for the future. We all benefit from reliable electricity, and we all have some responsibility for how it's generated.

What excites us most, though, is what a project like this could mean for the future of our islands. Cities and societies in general are changing, and remote communities like ours don't often get the chance to see what a project of this scale could bring: skilled, well-paid work in engineering, maintenance, marine operations, construction and the wider supply chain around them. Imagine what that could mean for young people who've grown up here, being able to build a career, raise a family and actually afford a home on the island they grew up on, rather than having to leave in search of it elsewhere. That ripple effect, young families staying, or coming back, and communities growing rather than shrinking, is exactly the kind of opportunity MachairWind could offer.

A lot has been made of the possible impact on tourism, but in our opinion that concern is overstated. The turbines will sit around 13 miles offshore from Mull and Iona. People come to these islands for the scenery, the wildlife, the walks, the beaches, the history, the sense of escape, that's what they remember and what brings them back. We don't believe an offshore wind farm at that distance changes what makes Mull and Iona special. If anything, we think many visitors appreciate seeing communities playing their part in a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Our islands have always found ways to move forward while holding on to what makes them unique. We believe MachairWind is another chance to do exactly that, and we hope the Community Council will look favourably on what this project could mean for the islands and for Scotland as a whole.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Head of Business Development
TSL Contractors Limited

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

w: https://www.tslcontractors.co.uk/







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Member of the Public 5016

From:	**[Redacted]**
To:	MD Marine Renewables
Subject:	Representation regarding application reference numbers 00012385 and 00012386 (MachairWind)
Date:	08 August 2026 19:01:52

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in support of the following proposals under consideration for the MachairWind Offshore Wind Development:

- application reference number 00012385, seeking consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989;
- application reference number 00012386, requesting a marine licence pursuant to Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

I am a long-time resident of the Isle of Jura, one of the islands specifically included in this consultation. I have worked and volunteered in a number of community-based organisations over the years and am a researcher specialising in islands and rural areas. During an internship as part of my recent PhD I developed the Scottish Government Scottish Islands Typology (https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-islands-typology-overview-2024/) to assist policymakers, stakeholder, and communities in better understanding the diverse needs and opportunities of Scotland's inhabited islands.

As someone who uses electricity, believes we should be tackling climate change, understands the importance of energy security, and thinks that sustainable development of the blue-green economy will be crucial Scotland's future, I cannot be anything but supportive of this application. I highly value the landscape, culture, and community of the island in which I live but also recognise that I do not live in a museum. The island has changed markedly since I was a child and will continue to do so. What is crucial is that we try and ensure that change contributes positively to the future of the island rather than destroying the things which keep it alive. On balance, I believe this project has the opportunity to contribute substantially more to the islands than it will take from them, as long as islanders continue to be treated as partners in the project so that the development unfolds sensitively and in a way which shares wealth with the communities involved.

In this regard I have been encouraged by the way ScottishPower Renewables have engaged with island communities so far regarding the development of MachairWind. Although there is always scope to improve consultation, and details of the potential the value of any community benefit fund has been crucial missing information, I believe that the engagement undertaken for this project has been among the most thorough I have experienced within my community (and we have seen many, many consultations). In particular, the presence of an island-based community liaison officer demonstrates a sustained commitment to engaging with those most directly affected, rather than treating island communities as a peripheral stakeholder group. This is important in the context of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, which requires island communities to be properly considered in relevant decision-making and places particular importance on meaningful engagement. In my view, ScottishPower Renewables' community engagement for MachairWind demonstrates an effort to put those principles into practice and to establish an ongoing relationship with the islands that will host and experience the effects of the development.

The commitment to a community benefit fund by ScottishPower Renewables is a crucial consideration for the development and is also consistent with the wider Scottish Government approach to community wealth building in that it provides an opportunity for economic value generated by the development to be retained within and directed by the communities most closely connected to it. This could be crucial for Jura, which currently has no access to community benefit funds or any long-term, consistent investment and is suffering from a lack of resources to support community ambitions because of this.

In terms of the legislation and policy around the development, I recognise that there are many layers of policy and legislation which provide important safeguards for the

marine environment, landscape, heritage and existing marine activities. I support the application being assessed rigorously against these policies. However, I do not consider the existence of these safeguards to be an argument against offshore wind development in principle. Rather, they provide the framework within which the impacts of MachairWind should be assessed, mitigated and balanced against its benefits. In addition, I believe it is equally important that any decision reflects the clear policy support in NPF4 for renewable energy, including offshore renewable energy, and the significant weight that policy places on renewable generation and greenhouse-gas reduction. The appropriate question is therefore whether the identified impacts can be appropriately avoided, mitigated or balanced against the substantial benefits of the development. I believe that ScottishPower Renewables has extensively covered these impacts in their consultations and indicated ways to effectively minimise or mitigate these to an appropriate degree.

In terms of the visual impact of the development, I live in a community where wind energy developments are already visible across the surrounding landscape and seascape. I have not experienced the presence of wind turbines being treated locally as a significant deterrent to tourism or as a contributor to reduced wellbeing. I am also aware that Scottish Government research specifically examining offshore wind and public perceptions found that only 4% of respondents had deliberately avoided visiting a Scottish coastal area because offshore turbines were visible from the shore (https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-perceptions-offshore-wind-farm-developments-scotland/pages/7/). What is different about MachairWind when compared to the existing developments visible from Jura is that the community here is being offered the prospect of a substantial and long-term community benefit fund from MachairWind, whereas we receive nothing at present from existing developments.

While I understand that some people feel that such a development would bring industrialisation to what might be perceived as an 'untouched' environment, I believe it is important to recognise that island communities have been able to exist and survive for centuries by embracing new developments. Our islands are not museums – they are living communities with real needs and opportunities, as well as places which can actively support national efforts to tackle climate change, energy security, and the economy. Actively using our natural resources in this way not only provides a source of secure, green energy for the nation, it also helps our island communities re-assert their position as central to national life – not as peripheral places which require handouts, but as active contributors who share the benefits of the resources on their doorstep

This does not mean that I do not recognise that the development will visually change the seascape around our islands, and I believe that every effort should be made to reduce the visual impact (for example I understand it is possible to install aircraft warning lights which only come on when an aircraft is overhead, and I would strongly encourage the use of this technology to reduce the development's impact on dark skies). However, I recognise that our energy must come from somewhere, and that we, in this region, have the opportunity to give over part of our seascape for a limited time (30 years) to help tackle climate change, improve energy security, and support the national economy. On balance I believe the benefits of this opportunity outweigh the visual impact which will be felt for the finite lifespan of the installation.

Some of the arguments I have heard against this development start from the idea that unspoilt landscapes are critical to the survival of our islands, assert that this development drastically changes the landscape, and conclude, therefore, that the development threatens the sustainability of the island communities. However, I believe that this line of thinking requires a rather narrow conception of what makes an island sustainable. Having undertaken extensive studies of Scotland's islands for my PhD and participated in global rural and island networks looking at island life and policy across the globe, I have learnt that island sustainability crucially depends upon the ability of communities to secure investment, maintain services, support young people, provide employment, address infrastructure deficits and create opportunities for future generations. A substantial, recurring community benefit fund of the type potentially on offer from this development could contribute directly to community sustainability by supporting these areas, and would be especially powerful if it follows good practice and

is used to support community priorities at a granular level, rather than feeding into generic, regional objectives. This is particularly relevant because the Scottish Government itself recognises that community benefit funds potentially support transformative local projects that continue for years.

It is, then, for the reasons above, that I would like to indicate my support for the MachairWind Development and urge Scottish Ministers approve consent for the MachairWind Offshore Wind Farm proposal and grant the related marine licence application.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

Gow, K., Duffy, P., Philip, L., Currie, M., & Wilson, R., (2026)
A new conceptual framework to classify sub-national islands: Gow's Typology
Journal of Rural Studies, 124.

Gow, K. (2025).
Coming Home: Exploring island connections and return migration among the Scottish islands diaspora
PhD thesis. University of Aberdeen.

Gow, K., Philip, L. J., Wilson, R., Duffy, P. M., Currie, M. (2024)
Uncovering Attributes of an Internal Islands Diaspora: Connections and Aspirations to Return
Shima, 18(1), 43–6

Member of the Public 5017

From:	**[Redacted**
To:	MD Marine Renewables
Cc:	**[Redacted]**
Subject:	Support for the MachairWind Project
Date:	09 August 2026 21:16:27
Attachments:	image012458.png image713357.png image063904.png image570770.png image637860.png image786805.png image902469.png image322172.png

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed MachairWind project off Mull.

As residents of Mull and Iona, I think it is important that we consider where our current and future energy is going to come from. Our demand for electricity continues to grow, and the infrastructure needed to produce that power has to be located somewhere. I believe that, as part of a modern society, we all have to accept some of the impact that comes with producing the energy we use.

There is no question that the waters around Mull and Iona are rich in wildlife and natural beauty, and it is absolutely right that these are protected. Like any form of development, producing energy will have some impact. These impacts need to be properly understood and minimised, but also balanced against the need to produce clean, renewable electricity.

It is also worth noting that this area was selected by the Scottish Government for offshore wind development and auctioned through the ScotWind process. SPR has invested significantly in the site and, had they not secured it, another major energy company would have.

I have seen first-hand the amount of work offshore wind can create, particularly during the long-term operations and maintenance phase. I believe MachairWind could bring real employment and economic benefits to Mull and the surrounding islands, alongside the future community benefit arrangements still to be decided by the Scottish Government.

For me, the important thing is that the project is developed responsibly and that Mull and Iona see a fair share of the long-term benefits. On that basis, I am very supportive of it going ahead.

Kind regards,

[Red acted]

[Redacted]

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Member of the Public 5018

From: [Redacted]
To: MD Marine Renewables
Subject: Support for the Planning Application for MachairWind Offshore Wind Farm
Date: 26 July 2026 11:59:35

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26 July 2026

Dear Sir / Madam,
I am writing to **formally support** to the planning application for the MachairWind Offshore Wind Farm.
It is considered that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) fully assesses the likely effects of the Proposed Development on the marine environment, human health, and coastal communities. The application provides a sufficiently robust basis for determination in accordance with Scottish planning and EIA requirements. Further assessment and mitigation are therefore not required before consent can be granted.

Summary of Key Benefits

Complete assessment of cumulative and indirect impacts, including interactions between offshore infrastructure, grid connection requirements and other existing or planned developments, show that the scheme is acceptable and has been adequately assessed.
Significant benefits as a result of the scheme in addressing the climate crisis which would otherwise result in significant effects on marine ecosystems, phytoplankton productivity, and marine life if not addressed.
Significant assessment of infrastructure resilience, security risks and the protection of critical offshore energy assets. Significant boost to energy security, reducing reliance on foreign energy imports which are subject to geopolitical volatility.
Certainty regarding decommissioning requirements, residual seabed infrastructure, waste management and financial security.
Adequate assessment of landscape, seascape, tranquillity and associated health and wellbeing effects showing no significant impacts which outweigh the significant benefits of the scheme.

The scheme has been adequately assessed, will result in significant CO2 savings addressing the climate emergency, support energy security moving us away from expensive and volatile international fossil fuel markets, and would help address the

wildlife/ecological emergency through the abatement of the climate crisis. **For these reasons I support the application.**

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Member of the Public 5019

From: [Redacted]
To: MD Marine Renewables
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Support of Machair Wind
Date: 07 August 2026 23:04:47

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed MachairWind offshore windfarm.

Living and working on the Isle of Mull, and being involved in a number of local businesses and community organisations, I am very conscious of the challenges facing our island communities. Creating sustainable employment, retaining young people and supporting viable local businesses are all fundamental to the long-term future of our islands.

My support for offshore wind also comes from personal experience of the industry. My husband, Tom, spent nine years working in the wind sector, constructing turbines off the coast of North Wales and building on shore wind farms in and around the north of Scotland. We therefore have a good understanding of the scale of these developments, the skills involved and, importantly, the employment and wider economic activity that can be generated around them.

For that reason, I see MachairWind as a significant opportunity for this part of the west coast.

While the generation of renewable energy is clearly important, I believe the wider economic opportunity presented by a development of this scale is equally significant for our communities. The potential for local employment, training and skills development, together with opportunities for existing businesses to diversify and become part of the offshore wind supply chain, should be given considerable weight.

Island communities need good-quality, year-round employment if we are to retain our young people and encourage others to make their lives here. Offshore wind has the potential to provide skilled careers which do not traditionally exist in our islands, while also creating additional demand for established businesses across marine services, transport, engineering, accommodation, hospitality and many other sectors.

I am therefore particularly encouraged by the emphasis being placed by MachairWind on developing the local supply chain, skills and training, and ensuring that communities in Argyll and Bute are in a position to benefit from the opportunities created by the project.

Having seen through Tom's experience the employment and economic opportunities that offshore wind development has brought to other parts of the UK, I would very much like to see our own island and coastal communities given the opportunity to benefit from the growth of this industry.

Of course, a development of this scale must be subject to rigorous environmental assessment and consideration of its impact on the marine environment, fishing, navigation and other users of our seas. However, I believe that, with appropriate mitigation and responsible development, renewable energy generation and the protection of our marine environment can be successfully balanced.

MachairWind represents a major long-term investment in this area and an opportunity to contribute both to Scotland's renewable energy ambitions and to the sustainability of our island communities.

For these reasons, I am very pleased to offer my support for the MachairWind development and would ask the Marine Directorate to give full consideration to the significant economic, social and strategic benefits it has the potential to deliver.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

Sent privately and names not to be published

[Redacted]