

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

SEM Committee,
c/o Commission for Energy Regulation,
The Exchange,
Belgard Square North,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.



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Dear SEM Committee members,

Re: Response to the "Treatment of Curtailment in Tie-Break situations ", SEM-12-028

We have been involved in the wind industry for over 20 years. Ireland has been very successful in acceptance and promotion of wind energy despite the difficulties of matching planning permissions with grid connections with financial supports to incentivise the building of projects but we need to do more. Society is now conscious that power generation from combustion of fossil fuels makes us vulnerable as we rely on imports; it is damaging to the environment and it is finite so we must find alternatives but, until we accept that it is essential to commit to a carbon free future and find ways of achieving it, we will continue to make compromises and not achieve the penetration of renewable energy which is required. Prioritising renewables should include wherever possible include removal of any hurdles or disadvantages implicit in variable renewable generation competing in a market designed for thermal generation and in which the cost of externalities is not a factor.

We support the IWEA response to this consultation and would like to reiterate that curtailment is a critical matter to be addressed to provide a stable policy framework to allow the industry on the island to move forward. We do believe linking curtailment to firm access will result in the required level of new renewable energy not materialising, which will negatively impact the consumer and prevent Ireland and Northern Ireland from reaching their 2020 renewable targets.

We support the position taken by IWEA on the options put forward and also support the IWEA proposal to vary Option 3 ("Option 3b"). We believe this is a solution that represents an industry compromise position which meets all of what we understand as the SEM Committee key objectives. We believe "Option 3b" as set out can be supported by the SEM Committee and the industry as well as importantly providing the least impact on the consumer.

In conclusion we would like to thank the SEM Committee for the opportunity to engage on this issue and to highlight the particular importance of this consultation given the significant implications it has for the viability of the wind sector.

Yours sincerely

MAUREEN DE PIETRO