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Nick Iles
Plans, Management and Performance Branch
Planning Division
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
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Ref: Welsh Assembly Government consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Dear Nick Iles

BWEA Cymru welcomes the opportunity to respond to the policy statement on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) recently issued by the UK Government's Department of Communities and Local Government, on behalf of Wales' wind, wave and tidal renewable energy industry.

The British Wind Energy Association is the trade and professional body for the UK wind and marine renewables industries. Formed in 1978, and with 438 corporate members, BWEA is the leading renewable energy trade association in the UK.

In recent years BWEA Cymru has been established to champion the wind, wave and tidal renewable energy technologies in Wales with a focus of achieving the Welsh Assembly Government 2010 renewable energy targets.

In representing the wind industry, BWEA is in a unique position to comment on the circumstances which affect the future growth and development of the sector.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is intended to fund infrastructure. BWEA believe that infrastructure that is directly providing infrastructure, such as



energy projects, but requiring little regional/sub-regional infrastructure for its operation, should be completely exempt from the CIL.

Current proposals for charging of the CIL appear to be based on metrics around development size, e.g. metres of retail development, which would be inappropriate for energy infrastructure.

The costs for renewable energy developers would be greatly impacted by this levy. Paying the levy would not improve the popularity of schemes, as the revenue would go to sub-regional development, or even development already undertaken. As most developers pay community benefits in addition to section 106 agreements, they would be paying three set of charges. As a result there is a danger that schemes could become uneconomic, or that community benefits could end up being reduced.

BWEA would welcome an enhancement of the Section 106 regime to deliver local benefits, but are against a 'double whammy' of S106 and CIL together. Certainly, if CIL is imposed on renewable energy projects, this would severely limit the resources available for voluntary community benefit funds. BWEA therefore asks for exemption at a UK level.

BWEA would be pleased to clarify any issues raised in our response and offer any further information which may be required.

Yours sincerely

Llywelyn Rhys
Head of BWEA Cymru