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From:

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WATER CHARGES PLAN CONSULTATION - FINAL SUBMISSION Thursday 28th August 2014

WATER CHARGES PLAN CONSULTATION

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To whom it may concern,

The following is my observation on the above Consultation Paper and sent to the CER by email on Thursday 28th August 2014.

I wish to object to the proposed Water Charges Plan for the following reasons.

Recently on National Radio Minister Simon Coveney stated that we the taxpayer are already paying €1.2Billion on Water per annum. So that means that in effect the planned Water Charges are a very unfair DOUBLE TAXATION.

I remember reading EPA annual reports on the Irish Water supply quality as far back as 20yrs ago and was horrified to learn how poor the Irish Water quality was in general.

And it only seems to have gone from bad to worse.

If Americans knew just how dirty the Irish Water Supply really is then many I guess would stop coming to Ireland. In America they seriously litigate against illnesses caused by harmful microbes in food, beverages/water.

Many tourists/visitors to Ireland have bought into the Clean and Green image portrayed by Ireland. It's one of the reasons they come here.

On a PERSONAL NOTE my own water supply comes from a group water scheme.

I heard about the last 10 day boil notice only after it was lifted and suddenly understood why I'd been feeling sick. A couple of years ago notices were sent out advising against swimming in local rivers due to poor water quality that were previously safe to swim in. The same rivers often draw from the same water sources used by group water schemes.

The Water Pressure varies throughout the course of the day. I presume it must have something to do with when the local milking parlours are operating.

When it rains the water comes out the tap brown and remains so for several days. Hence for most of the Winter. When the water is this colour it is pointless trying to wash any clothes because they come out dirtier than before they went in.

Also I have to regularly pull out the washing machine to clean out the sandy grit lodged in the incoming water filters.

When the water pressure is low and then resumes to normal pressure it often comes out of the tap a white colour often for several days.

The water is largely undrinkable and a bit off putting for some of the simplest of tasks such as washing fruit and vegetables.

In general the supply/pressure of the mains water supply is unreliable.

And then there is the whole issue about the presence of FLUORIDE in Irish Water.

From what I have read I understand that Southern Ireland and the UK are the only countries which still insist on putting flouride in water. I understand that flouride is a harmful toxic poison claimed to be have been used in certain circumstances to dumb down/pacify the masses.

I seriously object to paying for any water to which flouride a harmful and totally unnecessary poison has been added.

A local medic told me a few years ago that the local town water pipes were LEAD WATER PIPES. The issue was raised with the relevant authorities at the time and particularly in relation to the associated health risks but nothing was done about it.

Every time I attend a local community event where say tea and coffee and food is provided I'm aware that the water used has probably come through those unhealthy lead water pipes. It's a typical small town with a health centre, a small hospital, community centre, school etc.

There are days when the smell of chlorine in the water would almost knock you out and just to take a shower is akin to being in a HEAVILY CHLORINATED swimming pool.

I live in a farmhouse that was once part of a farm. It is now solely a domestic residence. The Farmhouse was sold separate from the farmland over 7yrs ago. Ever since I have been seeking to have my billing status changed accordingly to a single Domestic Dwelling. I have yet to receive a reply to the last email which I sent to the Local Authority about a year ago.

For several years I have been sent ridiculously high estimated bills because the water meter located 2 miles away approx. was lost under tarmacadam and apparently untraceable.

About a year ago the Local County Council installed a NEW DIGITAL WATER METER STILL AT A DISTANCE OF APPROX. 2 MILES FROM MY RESIDENCE and they still continue to send me ridiculously high water bills.

There are several farms between my supposed allocated water meter and my domestic residence.

The odd occasion the neighbouring farmers while working their land have accidentally broke the water supply pipe and continued to complete their own work first before attempting to fix any leak.

It is grossly unfair and unjust to locate a water meter so far away from a domestic residence and especially when a perfect opportunity had arose for the Local County Council to locate the new water meter within the boundaries of my domestic residence to which the meter is assigned.

So for this reason alone I will refuse to pay any water charges.

Another issue is water pipes which are too close to the surface and which freeze in cold weather. I remember the long cold winters of 2009 and 2010 when I was without water for up to 3 weeks at a time due to FROZEN WATER PIPES. The same was the case for several of my neighbours.

I understand that there is a first fix policy within a certain timeframe.

On this point I would like to reiterate that for over a year now I am still waiting for a reply to my very long email to the Local County Council.

Also many are concerned that even after any First Fix Policy that the first cold snap will potentially give rise to burst pipes which many people may be unable to afford to have repaired nor be able to afford to pay for the water lost.

Many water pipes are untraceable and hence there must be lots of UNTRACEABLE WATER PIPES leaking water all over Ireland. This is crazy. Surely some sort of tagging system can be attached to water supply pipes which can later be traced with some sort of handheld scanning machine.

I've already mentioned that the proposed water charges are an unfair Double Taxation. In essence the planned water charges are nothing more than ANOTHER REVENUE COLLECTING EXERCISE DRESSED UP AS WATER CONSERVATION.

Just as with the guilt tripping about Climate Change by the purely speculative Wind Energy Pushers the masses are now being made to feel guilty about and also responsible for Water Conservation. Yet all it is really about is extracting more revenue from the hardpressed taxpayer.

The Wind Energy Industry does very little to reduce CO2/Greenhouse gas emissions. Likewise, I doubt the quality of supply nor the quality of the water will improve. In fact, I can pretty much guess that regardless of any introduction of Water Charges that the quality of supply and the quality of the Irish Water will continue to deteriorate.

In a similar way perhaps in which the once secure reliable safe affordable supply of electricity has been severely eroded/compromised since the introduction of the Wind Energy Industry. I believe the word used in the Industry in trying to incorporate Wind Energy into the electricity supply mix is that it is 'Challenging' which is another way of saying it's completely 'Bonkers'.

Before anyone even turns on a tap we will first have to pay for the DUPLICATION OF STAFF carried over from the Local Authorities to Irish Water in addition to the new staff employed by Irish Water. This is really bad management and a squandering of the National Finances and an unnecessary and unfair cost which is planned to be transferred to the taxpayer/customer.

The same can be said of the additional charges for electricity supply. Since the introduction of Wind generated electricity we are now all paying socially, economically and environmentally for a multiplication of suppliers of electricity.

And this is at a time when ELECTRICITY DEMAND HAS REDUCED BY 20% SINCE 2007 and when the population has grown by 16% to 4.6 Million. So in effect the demand for electricity since 2007 has reduced by much more than 20%.

The proposed planned water charges are only the tip of the iceberg. We all know that they are set to rise after the initial introduction.

In general it is the SME's that keep a healthy economy going. Increased/additional Water Charges will only increase the cost of many of their services and products forcing many out of business and/or perhaps force them to cut corners.

Just as any further increases in electricity prices will have a negative impact on MARKET COMPETITIVENESS so too will the introduction of the planned water charges have a negative impact on Market Competitiveness.

The government may try to soften the blow to Industry and the SME's by perhaps subsidising water but perhaps by passing the costs of doing so onto the already hard pressed 'Coping Classes'.

Ireland has the highest domestic electricity costs in Europe with up to as much as 20% of a difference and with the third highest commercial/industrial electricity prices in Europe. And as more wind energy is connected to the network then accordingly electricity prices are more likely to increase.

The numbers that are experiencing fuel/energy poverty is on the increase. One in four electricity customers are unable to pay their bills and that fails to take into account those unable to afford even to switch on the electricity or those who already use it very sparingly within their limited means.

High Electricity costs increase the cost of everyday services and goods fuelling poverty in general.

The planned Water Charges will accordingly result in WATER POVERTY.

The cost of everything that uses water that is THE EMBEDDED COST will result price increases leading to even more people potentially finding themselves falling into the POVERTY TRAP.

How much more does the government think it can squeeze out of the 'Coping Classes'?

In recent years people have suffered losses of jobs, reductions in salaries, cutbacks, property taxes, bin charges. People have got rid of the second car and the only car, car insurance, car tax, petrol/diesel bills.

They've got rid of the landline, they're shopping around for cheaper mobile phone packages, they've got rid of the TV, the TV cable, the TV Licence, they've cancelled Life Insurances and Health Insurance whilst the government continues to talk about introducing some future compulsory health insurance.

Many people have stopped eating out, cancelled gym memberships, they've given up going on holidays.

They're buying cheap low quality food, end of sell by date food.

They're buying cheap clothes and buying secondhand clothes and other secondhand items.

Many are living in properties with negative equity.

More and more families are falling behind in their mortgage payments and many are losing their homes.

So many have had to emigrate.

The number of homeless is growing.

One in five children go to school hungry.

Food camps were set up recently in cities such as Cork City in order to feed the hungry.

All of this is reminiscent of The Famine Times.

Is the next terrible historical experience now going to be THE WATER FAMINE?

How many more AUSTERITY MEASURES can the citizens of Ireland be expected to endure?

There was a 46% increase in emigration between 2008 and 2011 and last year in 2013 an additional 87,400 people emigrated from Ireland.

And the numbers who have had to emigrate will continue to increase for as long as the Austerity Measures and the hardship continues.

Ireland's Social Fabric is disintegrating rapidly and especially in rural Ireland.

Communities and families are falling apart.

More are suffering from depression and anxiety.

The numbers of those experiencing some level of stress is on the increase.

There is an unhealthy demographic imbalance with a large cohort of the population aged between their early 20's and 40's absent from Ireland.

As long as the austerity measures and the economic recession continues there is little chance that they will be able to return home to Ireland in the foreseeable future.

The Austerity Measures began proper after the Property Development and Banking Industry collapsed.

The Banks were bailed out by the Irish Taxpayer instead of Ireland choosing to burn the bondholders and the EU/IMF intervened to try to prevent a domino effect occurring in the rest of Europe.

And as we all know today Germany and France have themselves broken the National GNP to Debt ratio rules many times without ever having to pay the penalties as Ireland did.

Germany and France have been as broke as the rest of us all along. They were good at playing Poker Face.

Bailing out Ireland postponed for a few years the inevitable truth from coming out about the overall real poor state of affairs of the European Economy.

There used to be €25 billion in the National Pension Reserve Fund.

Most of that money was used to help bail out the Banks.

Then the Austerity Measures began.

Wherever the IMF have intervened they have offered loans with relatively high interest rates.

They generally target Natural Resources like Water, Forestry, Utilities, gas, oil, minerals etc. for exploitation and privatisation.

And often the landscape becomes industrialised with unnecessary Energy Infrastructure.

It is said that one can either Conquer a Nation through engaging them in war or one can chose to try to enslave them by helping them to fall into serious debt.

With the recent revelations about the poor state of the economy in Germany and France why is it that Ireland is still continuing on with the same Austerity path initially set out by the EU/IMF?

The former Minister Phil Hogan has played his part in rolling out some of the more unpalatable Austerity measures by firstly introducing Property Taxes and then the proposed water charges. And now that he has completed that odious task he is now rewarded with a plum job in Europe as an EU Commissioner.

More and more of Ireland's sovereignty and Natural Resources continue to be given away for practically next to nothing.

There is currently a massive transfer of wealth taking place under the guises of a recession, a transfer of wealth from the general population predominantly into the hands of the Banks and the extremely wealthy 1%.

If the government were serious about improving Water Quality and promoting Water Conservation then instead of foisting yet more Taxes on it's citizens they might for example roll out a NATIONAL 'DEEP' WATER HARVESTING PROGRAMME.

This initiative would again create some much needed jobs and a feel good factor all over the country and the income tax and VAT generated from same would revert straight back into the government coffers.

Large volumes of water are used in the flushing of a toilet.

When the toilet was first invented it was a toss up between a wet system or a dry compost system. The dry compost system has many environmental advantages over the more common place wet system.

There is ample scope to try to introduce DRY COMPOST TOILET systems especially into rural areas.

Once again more jobs could be created and with the potential to raise even more income tax and VAT.

Since the arrival of the EU/IMF organisations such as NewERA have been established under the umbrella of the Department of Finance and the National Treasury Management Agency.

NewERA is responsible for Irish Water, Coillte, Bord Gais Eireann, Bord Na Mona, ESB and Eirgrid. These six companies are earmarked for privatisation but in the interim tens of Billions of Taxpayers money have and are being invested in these companies priming them to be given away for potentially next to nothing as has unfortunately been the case with most of the assets which were formerly held by Bord Gais Eireann.

Please note that it is of some concern that Bord Gais Eireann, ESB and Eirgrid are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and from being investigated by the Public Accounts Committee.

These six companies generate a combined annual revenue of €6Billion with an annual government capital investment of €13.2 Billion.

In January of this year €800,000 worth of equity in The National Pension Reserve Fund was sold to Lexington Partners Ltd. for an undisclosed sum!

This was to provide cash liquidity to facilitate a name change from the National Pension Reserve Fund to The Ireland Strategic Investment Fund.

The remaining €6.8Billion of the former National Pension Reserve Fund has been earmarked for investment primarily in Irish Water and also Energy and Telecommunications.

It appears the NPRF/ISIF must be an extremely elastic fund because more recently it has also been earmarked for investment in SME's in conjunction with investment from a German Bank back by a €4 Billion Government guarantee.

What I would like to know is why €1.2 Billion per annum of taxpayers money together with a proportion of the remains of the former National Pension Reserve Fund together with the planned Water Charges is all to be invested in Irish Water a company which will potentially be given away for next to nothing to some private investor as was the case with most of the assets once held by Bord Gais Eireann?

Any such private investor is likely to be more concerned about making as much of a healthy profit margin as possible rather than concerning themselves with improving the general health and well being of the nation nor are they likely to be concerned about investing in the provision of an improved water supply with a better quality of water for it's customers.

In addition to objecting to the planned water charges I object to any further squandering of the remains of the former National Pension Reserve Fund in the pumping up of Irish Water for it to perhaps then be given away to some Private Investor for nearly next to nothing.

When in college I did a mini thesis on Pension Policy.

It was clear then as it is now that Ireland is facing into a major pension crisis/collapse in the near future.

The only glimmer of hope on the pension front was the setting up of the National Pension Reserve Fund together with encouraging people to also make their own private provisions for their retirement through savings and various other investments.

It is of some concern that the remaining €6.8 Billion in the former National Pension Reserve Fund and in some cases even the personal savings of the Irish Citizen are in some cases eyed up by politicians for investing in areas other than future pensions and social welfare provisions.

Ireland is an ageing population with a growing pension demographic.

It is crucial that adequate provisions are made for same.

Nelson Mandela said "We are Born to be Free".

Yet how can anyone ever hope to be free in Ireland if one is permanently enslaved by government taxes such as Property Taxes, the planned Water charges and the planned compulsory health insurances?

How can a people aspire to be Free, to be Self Sufficient, Self Reliant, to be truly Independent?

It's impossible for as long as such taxes exist.

Next we'll be charged for the dirty polluted air we often have to breathe.

Here in rural Ireland there's the regular stench of slurry, silage, agrichemical sprays, burning rubbish and the burning of farm plastic on either a cloudy day or under the cover of night. There's the recognisable dead smell of poisoned wildlife in the hedgerows and fields and the awful stench when passing by the local rendering plant.

Pure clean country air is fast becoming a myth in Ireland just as is the myth about Ireland's Pure drinking water.

If the government were really serious about finding a way out of the current recession then they would be encouraging it's citizens to become Independent on every level, to become Independent Thinkers, Creative, to become Entrepreneurs, problem solvers, to find Win-Win Solutions, to be a more self reliant Nation.

The future quality of Irish Water is under further threat from HARVEST 20;20 a government policy aimed to increase Agricultural output by 33%.

In effect what that means is that water consumption in the Agricultural Sector is set to increase by at least 33%.

So on the one hand we have one government department seeking to promote water conservation through planned water charges and on the other hand we have another government department blowing such attempts at water conservation completely out of the water by encouraging agricultural output to increase by another 33% which in turn will increase water consumption in this sector by at least another 33%.

Now how Bonkers is that?

Agriculture is already responsible for much of the problems associated with poor water quality.

There's the RUN OFF FROM SLURRY into the rivers and underground water courses. Slurry contains bad bacteria such as ECOLI which can cause serious illness and even death in severe cases. Slurry or Ecoli is just a polite word for faecal matter. It can find it's way into and contaminate National Water Supplies. Even when one smells slurry one is in effect inhaling and digesting some faecal matter.

With Harvest 20:20 AGRICULTURAL INTENSIFICATION will result in the production of even more slurry resulting in even more slurry run off into rivers, streams and underground water courses.

SUPERBUGS which occasionally find their way into the food and water chain are sometimes caused by the inappropriate and overuse of antibiotics.

I've personally seen farmers administer ANTIBIOTICS to their sick and injured animals without giving it a second thought and without seeking any veterinary intervention or advice.

Harvest 20:20 agricultural intensification will see an even further increase in antibiotic use in animal livestock because for one there will be more animals and two the intensification will in itself potentially make more crowded livestock more susceptible to disease and infection.

There will potentially be a likely increase in the number of Superbugs making their way into the food, beverage and water chain.

With agricultural intensification more of the ditches are being removed together with natural native hedgerows, shelter belts and trees often to make more land available for farming and to make way for the easier passage of even bigger farm machinery.

This can have a negative effect on water soakage and water drainage/percolation resulting in water logging and/or more agrichemical, slurry runoff into rivers, streams and underground water courses.

Intensive farming is resulting in increased soil erosion and soil infertility. Again this has a negative impact on water runoff, water drainage and water percolation.

Bigger and heavier farm machinery is resulting in soil compaction and again causing problems with water run off, water drainage and water percolation.

Under Harvest 20:20 agricultural intensification will result in more plastic being used therefore there is a risk of more plastic being burnt and dumped and plastic particles such as dioxins and plasticides getting into the food and water chain.

Farm income is currently subsidised 98%.

I fail to understand the current agricultural policy and the proposed agricultural policy under Harvest 20:20 which is totally unsustainable and very destructive to the environment.

People in government seem to have short memories. The winter before last there were serious fodder shortages which resulted in deaths from hunger of many livestock and many farmers were under a lot of stress and strain to the extent that there were quite a number of suicides.

Despite all the talk of a world food shortage Irish Beef farmers are failing to get a good price for their cattle and there are cheese mountains in Europe.

It would make much more sense for agricultural policy with the same level of farm subsidies to promote quality rather than quantity, to promote more sustainable farming and to promote organic, biodynamic farming and permaculture. And to aid NATURAL WATER ATTENUATION the beneficial ditches, native hedgerows and native trees many of which have been removed all over the country they the farmers who removed them should be encouraged to restore them.

This would have a positive effect on the land usage and the environment with less agrichemical and slurry runoff and hopefully better water drainage and water percolation resulting in cleaner, purer water in our rivers and underground water courses.

A case perhaps of Less is More and Small is Beautiful.

FORESTRY Policy should also be looked at with regards it's impact on the National Water Supply.

Currently Coillte is clearing large sectors of national forested land to prepare sites for Private Industrial Wind Farm Development which I feel will soon be seen as one of the biggest follies at the beginning of 21st century.

Last Winter there was a lot of rain and many trees fell. They were 'drunk' with water. There was so much rain that the trees were literally standing in a kind of soup of sorts unable any longer to support some trees. Many a tree that fell often took one or more trees with it.

And ever since people have been felling even more trees for fear that they may fall potentially causing damage at some near future date.

The problem with this is that there is now less natural soakage available.

And if we have a repeat of last years wet Winter then a vicious circle will commence which will be very difficult to counteract resulting in even more trees falling and even more flooding.

And this will result in further poor water drainage, percolation and even more water runoff into rivers, streams and underground water courses.

So instead of felling trees to make way for a very expensive and nonsensical Wind Energy Industry Coillte should in fact be planting lots more trees and especially native trees in order to provide more natural soakage/natural water attenuation.

Agricultural practices can negatively impact on water quality in many different ways.

Imposing the planned water charges on the citizens of Ireland is hardly going to help to reduce the above mentioned negative impact from the current and future planned agricultural policies and practices.

I've already mentioned Water Poverty. There is a real risk that people will be unable to pay for adequate amounts of water to ensure their general good health and well being.

Pure Water is Life Giving, cleansing, detoxing, purifying, hydrating.

People may be faced with little option but to wash and clean less often which may perhaps lead to POORER HYGIENE STANDARDS in general.

So potentially there are potentially real PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES at risk from introducing the planned Water Charges.

To promote good health and to reduce diseases such as obesity and diabetes the Department of Health is spending lots of money in promotional adverts to encourage us all to eat more fruit and vegetables and to exercise more and drink more water.

However the preparation of a healthy diet with lots of Fruit and Vegetables requires the use of water and especially if using soil covered home grown produce. What we may see is that people will resort to eating a less healthy diet, less fruit and vegetables, choosing to fry food because it uses less water in the preparation. They may also exercise less to avoid taking more showers and they may also start to drink less water.

The Department of Health is the most heavily funded Department in Ireland using up vast amounts of scarce Public Finances. Greater strain will be put on the finances for Healthcare if more sickness and disease is caused through Water Poverty.

Many people in Ireland are under incredible financial and emotional stresses and strains. There's an increase in numbers from those suffering from Depression and Anxiety and I feel that the planned Water Charges will create an IMPLOSION, a TIPPING POINT that will surely be the straw that will break the camel's back leading more people to suffer from depression and anxiety and in turn result in a further strain being put on the National Health Services.

In addition to the planned Water Charges there is talk of a possible mandatory Health Insurance and also an additional €2-3 Billion to be squeezed from the taxpayer in the forthcoming budget.

There has been some recent talk that the next budget may be softened perhaps through reductions in/some removal of the Universal Social Charge.

However, Senior Economist Colm McCarthy has said that 'politicians should come clean with the electorate' on the fact that tax burdens may have to increase again ie. by seeking an additional €2-3 Billion in taxes from the taxpayer in the next budget given the poor state of the National Economy and the enormous public and private debt burden.

So given that the reality is that there's perhaps another tough budget ahead where do the government think that the people of Ireland are going to find the money to pay for the planned water charges?

In a total population of 4.6 Million there are 1.9 Million workers of which 1/6 or 300,000 approx. are on or below the minimum industrial wage earning only €33,000 approx or less.

It's a total FALSE ECONOMY to subject the citizens of Ireland to the planned Water Charges when it will potentially result in more pressure and expense being put on the Department of Health and when the current and proposed agricultural policy under Harvest 20:20 is currently and will only further undermine and ridicule any Water Conservation measures the planned Water Charges are envisaged to bring about.

Where has the introduction of Bin Charges got Ireland? Oh yes in beautiful parts of rural Ireland it is now quite common place for people to burn their rubbish in the domestic fireplace which gives off that quite distinguishable smell, or to burn it outside or yes to just dump it up in the forests and the hills and mountains, a real eyesore for locals and tourists alike and where yes from where many a water supply comes from.

The Image of Ireland as a Green and Clean Isle is fast approaching it's SELL BY DATE.

Yes I can see it all now.

TOURISTS will complain about dirty old Ireland and the third world water supply system of very poor quality and all of the intensive farming that is destroying the landscape together with the Industrialisation of the Landscape by the Wind Energy Industry and how the people of Ireland are so Poverty stricken suffering ill health and how ridiculously expensive everything is.

Gone is the Agrifood Industry, gone is the Tourism Industry and the Health System has entirely collapsed as well as any National Pension System.

The rumour machine is saying that even those with their own water wells and rain water harvesting systems will be charged for water because the rumour has it that the water belongs to the State. If this is so then this is absolutely ridiculous.

I strongly object to any water charges being applied on any water drawn from private water wells and rain water harvesting systems.

I strongly object to any planned or future planned standing charges for water.

When it comes to calling out the FIRE SERVICES are the charges going to be increased substantially due to the amount of water that might typically be used?

Human Beings are essentially Water Beings. At birth we are 90% water reducing down to 60% upon death of the body. To live a healthy life humans require plenty of Pure Living Water.

It is an essential and vital HUMAN RIGHT to have access to adequate supplies of Pure Clean Water for one's general Health and Well Being.

The Water of Ireland is a Natural Resource which belongs to the People of Ireland and which should never be sold off.

And why should anyone have to pay for something which already belongs to them?

In very recent times the CER has granted the introduction of Capacity Payments to suppliers of electricity from traditional power plants, has granted an increase in the cost of gas bills just before the sale of a substantial part of Bord Gais Eireann, has allowed for the increase in the PSO Levy on electricity bills this October and has just recently granted a 50% increase in Curtailment Fees to the Wind Energy Industry. Last year €200 Million was spent in curtailment fees which are fees paid to wind farm developers to feather the blades, turn off their wind turbines when the wind blows too much and when there's too little a demand for the electricity generated.

I believe €200 Million is equivalent to the HSE cuts. So now the 50% increase in curtailment fees will automatically increase to €300 Million per annum and even more thereafter for each and every single extra wind turbine which is added to the electricity network.

I also understand that the 50% increase in the curtailment fee may be to somehow compensate wind energy developers who may be prevented from dispatching electricity on to the network because it would be cheaper than paying for all of the added wear and tear of the traditional power plants from the continual ramping up and down together with the inefficient and wasteful use of fossil fuels due to all of the vagaries of the wind.

And now the CER is currently considering the water charges plan.

It seems to be more and more the case that the CER just like An Bord Pleanála is predisposed to grant permission/rubber stamp/grant approval for whatever the government may push it's way. And because of this people in general are beginning to lose confidence and faith in the independence and credibility of organisations such as the CER and ABP.

The planned water charges will only further deepen the current recession caused by the collapse both of the Property Development Industry and the Banking sector bubble and followed by the subsequent bank bailouts. We are currently in the midst of yet another economic bubble fuelled by what I believe is a fabricated demand for property in Dublin and at a time when there are already 284,000 dwellings vacant in Ireland. Most of the planned new properties being constructed or to be constructed are being fast tracked through the planning system and there is talk of the planning regulations being relaxed in order to make these properties more affordable.

Will these homes of a somewhat reduced standard of quality be the homes of the next generation to become indebted in Ireland who may also come to suffer the next wave of negative equity?

If Ireland is serious about global warming and reducing CO2 Emissions then every new building should be built to at least Passive House Standard and/or The Living Building Standard.

The current economic bubble is also being fuelled by:-

- The tens of billions of euro being squandered on the Wind Energy Industry.

- The potential squandering of the remaining €6.8 Billion in the former National Pension Reserve Fund/ISIF.

- The externalised costs of the current agricultural practices.

With increased Agricultural Intensification farmers may have already sought or may seek to borrow money to buy more land or new farm machinery and in doing so become indebted which would become a real serious problem especially if the agricultural sector were to collapse.

I feel the current agricultural policy and practices are totally unsustainable and that the Industry is set to collapse just as the Property Development Industry did.

And all of the above is in the context of the fact that the Global Economy is on the verge of another economic collapse but of a scale much worse than the collapse of the global economic derivatives bubble of 2008.

I respectfully request the CER to refuse to allow the implementation of the planned Water Charges for all of the valid reasons I have outlined above.

Enough is Enough with all of the Austerity Measures.

The Water issues of Ireland have to be addressed in a more holistic manner.

What we need right now is more joined up thinking at the government inter departmental level in order to prevent the complete Economic, Social and Environmental Suicide of Ireland.

We have to look for creative solutions to prevent the complete Stagnation of a Nation.

Currently what we have are many various government departments competing amongst themselves for limited resources, all of them trying to justify their existence often to the detriment of the Whole.

I'm reminded of the legend of the Lernaean Hydra.

With each successive head which is cut from the poisonous Lernaean Hydra there grows two more heads creating an even bigger and more dangerous monster.

It's time for some serious damage limitation.

It's time to Rethink the National Water Policy and forget entirely about any Water Charges Plan.

It's time for a bit of Herculean Strength and Wisdom.

Under the Spirit of the Aarhus Convention I request that my submission be considered and responded to in full in a meaningful and considered manner.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

County Tipperary.

Sent from my iPhone