



Committee for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

24 August 2026

Re: Harbours Bill 2026

Dear Chairperson,

I hope this finds you well. Wind Energy Ireland represents the Irish wind energy industry. We are the collective voice of more than 200 members working to make Ireland an energy-independent electrostate, powered by clean, affordable, energy.

Together, we work with Government, communities, policymakers and industry to accelerate the delivery of wind energy, cut our carbon emissions and build a secure, resilient and electrified future for everyone on the island of Ireland.

We work closely with our colleagues in RenewableNI, which represents Northern Ireland's renewable energy industry, and I am writing in response to the committee's call for evidence on the Harbours Bill to put on the record our strong support for their submission.

As the committee will be aware Belfast Harbour is currently the only port on the island which can be used to construct new offshore wind energy projects.

There are currently six offshore wind energy projects in development off the east and south coast and we anticipate decisions on the planning applications of two of them before the end of the year. The successful development of these projects is critical to ensuring a secure supply of clean, affordable, electricity to consumers right across the island of Ireland.

Belfast Harbour is investing in an Offshore Wind Terminal and has a strong track record in offshore renewable energy development. The Harbours Bill will provide Northern Ireland's Trust Ports, including Belfast Harbour, with the legislative framework to support greater flexibility for long-term investment and enable ports to respond to the opportunities which will arise from the development of offshore renewable energy.

We would encourage the committee to support the Bill as it moves through the Assembly's legislative process and to ensure that the legislation, while getting the robust scrutiny it needs, is passed as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Noel Cuniffe".

Noel Cuniffe

CEO, Wind Energy Ireland