Alab, Info

From: Cheryl McCourt [redacted]
Sent: Saturday 10 October 2026 23:36
To: Alab, Info
Subject: No to oyster farm in ballyness

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as someone who lives on Ballyness Bay(f92c2n0), in a home that has been passed down through generations of my family. This place is far more than a beautiful view from my window. It is part of our family history, our memories, our way of life and our connection to the land and sea that surrounds us.

For generations, my family and countless others have enjoyed the natural, untouched beauty of Ballyness Bay through every season — winter, spring, summer and autumn. Its peacefulness, open landscape and rustic charm are what make this place so special. The thought of that beauty being permanently altered by man-made structures is genuinely heartbreaking. What makes Ballyness unique is its natural character, and once that is lost, we cannot simply get it back.

It is difficult to understand how something so precious to the local community could be put at risk for financial gain, particularly when the people who stand to benefit may not be the people who live here, care for this place or will have to live with the consequences. Ballyness is not just a piece of land on a map. It is a living, breathing part of our community, and its value cannot be measured in money alone.

At a time when so many of our young people are leaving Ireland in search of opportunities elsewhere, we should be protecting the things that make our rural communities worth living in and visiting. Ballyness Bay is one of those things. Its natural beauty draws visitors from all walks of life throughout the year, helping to support local businesses, particularly during the quieter months when trade can be difficult to sustain. Preserving this landscape is not just about protecting scenery; it is about protecting a way of life and supporting the future of our community.

My family and many others use the bay throughout the year. We walk, exercise, explore, paddleboard, kayak and windsurf. But just as importantly, we come here for peace. When life becomes overwhelming, when the world feels chaotic and everything seems to move too quickly, the bay is somewhere we can go to breathe, to clear our heads and to feel grounded again. There is something irreplaceable about standing by the water, surrounded by nature, and finding a moment of calm.

That matters more than people may realise. These natural spaces are not luxuries. They are places where families make memories, where children grow up learning to appreciate nature, where visitors

fall in love with the area, and where local people find comfort and connection. They belong to the fabric of our lives.

So I ask you to consider this: **where are the local people supposed to go if the places they have always depended on are changed beyond recognition?** What happens to the next generation, who deserve the same freedom to explore, enjoy and find peace in this bay that generations before them have enjoyed?

Imagine looking out of your own front window at a landscape you have loved your entire life, only to see it permanently changed by a decision made by people who may never truly understand what that place means to you. Imagine watching a part of your family's heritage disappear, knowing that your children and grandchildren may never experience Ballyness as you have known it.

This is not simply about opposing change. It is about asking for careful consideration, respect for the people who live here, and recognition that some things are too valuable to lose. Development should never come at the expense of the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of belonging that make a place special.

Ballyness Bay cannot speak for itself, so it is up to those of us who love it to speak on its behalf. I sincerely ask that the long-term impact on our landscape, our community, our local businesses and future generations be given the consideration it deserves.

Please do not allow a place that has brought so much peace, joy and value to so many people over so many years to be changed forever without fully recognising what would be lost.

Ballyness is part of our home, our heritage and our future. Once its natural beauty is gone, no amount of money can truly replace it.

I urge you to listen to the voices of the local community and to protect what makes Ballyness Bay so special.

Yours sincerely,

A local resident and someone who cares deeply about Ballyness Bay

