

Monaghan Submission Ireland 2040

(See attached file: Monaghan Submission Ireland 2040 2 Updated.docx)

Is mise le meas,

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Senate Spokesperson for Education

When considering the future of Ireland, it is crucial for the government to consider the wellbeing of rural towns as well as big towns and heavily populated cities. This consideration needs to be given to counties like Monaghan that have been frequently overlooked due to their smaller size and the fact that they are located close to the border. However, areas like Monaghan need to be focused on more frequently because they hold the key to building a future for Ireland and are often the ones that face the biggest difficulties due to certain governmental changes.

It is important that in the National Planning Framework, rural counties like Monaghan receive recognition that areas north of Galway and Dublin do not receive. This rural county needs acknowledgment when it comes to expanding certain areas in Ireland because it is an industry centered hub. There are considerable inter-regional issues and considerations for County Monaghan given its strategic location. It lies on the axis between Belfast and Galway, and it provides a key link between Letterkenny, Derry and Dublin. However its place within the North West Regional Assembly is not reflective of the reality in that it has stronger connections, synergies and similarities, economically and socially, with those counties in the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and indeed those border counties in Northern Ireland, than many in NWRA. Due to its location between all of these major hubs, it is crucial for County

Monaghan to be given the funding necessary to build more infrastructures and roadways that will better connect all of these hubs.

With Brexit on the horizon, it is impossible for Ireland to build a future – especially one 22 years from now – without considering the ramifications of Britain leaving and finding a way to look after Northern Ireland instead of turning our back. For many border counties like Monaghan, Brexit could become really problematic. Regardless of the consequences of UK exit from the EU, the national hierarchy needs to acknowledge that strong cross-border links and relationships have been established, are working for the betterment of both sides of the border, and will continue to develop. This is evidenced by significant cross border dependencies with large sections of the population traversing the border each day commuting to work and in connection with cross

border trade. With all these people relying on the open and easy transportation across the border it is hard to imagine considering a future without making any mention of Brexit. It is no longer reasonable to pretend that Brexit is not happening, instead we need to plan out how we will work around these issues in order to make the lives of citizens near the border easier. At the same time we must also remember that Northern Ireland is still on the Irish island and thus needs to be considered and have an input to decisions. With Brexit coming we should not turn our backs on our citizens who rely on the freedom across the border or our northern counterparts that deserve to be heard, especially considering that the border issue effects them as much as us.

Each of these issues require consideration prior to the finalization of the NPF because these northern and rural counties

are a part of Ireland and as such deserve to be built and looked after just as much as the major city centers of Ireland.

We are at a crucial stage in our development and it is critical that rural Ireland and border counties in particular are identified as areas for significant growth and investment.

Thank you.