**Sinn Féin submission to the** **SONI Transmission Development Plan consultation:**

A chara,

I would like to focus my consultation submission on the North South Interconnector.

Sinn Féin fully supports the development of the North South Interconnector, recognising that it is an important infrastructural project.

We understand and agree we need to have the necessary infrastructure in place that allows us to effectively decarbonise our energy generation and achieve a sustainable transition, away from fossil fuels. There is also the need to ensure security of supply, particularly in rural communities where economic development is currently inhibited.

We believe that the the North/ South Interconnector must be undergrounded - a policy position agreed by our members at our Ard Fheis.

We have also listened closely to the concerns of the communities most affected by the decision and believe undergrounding this project is the right approach.

By providing an underground interconnector, the two electricity grids on our island can be connected in a way that delivers benefits for the entire island, whilst also having the consent and support of communities along the route.

It is important that large scale infrastructure projects should garner the support of local communities so that everyone sees the benefits they are intended to provide.

Is mise,

Cathal Boylan MLA