

U.S. tycoon vows legal bid to halt 'destruction' of Scottish landscape

# TRUMP IN £15M WIND FARM WAR WITH SALMOND

**TYCOON Donald Trump has declared all-out war on Alex Salmond's campaign to power Scotland with nearly 9,000 wind turbines.**

The multi-millionaire last night

By **Jonathan Brocklebank**

vowed to halt the 'destruction' of the landscape and threatened to take ministers to court to halt the Scottish Government's wind energy programme.

He is prepared to plough £15million or

more into a battle with the First Minister, who is so committed to green energy he wants Scotland to produce all its electricity from renewables by 2020.

Mr Trump's spokesman, George Sorial, promised: 'We will not allow a reckless First Minister to destroy Scotland's tourism sector.'

Mr Trump is due to arrive in Edinburgh

next week, when he will outline his opposition to wind power at the Scottish parliament.

The New York magnate yesterday raised the stakes in his feud with the Government, with the launch of an aggressive advertising campaign

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designed to convince Scots that wind energy will ruin the coastline. The full-page newspaper advert, produced by PR gurus in the Trump Organisation in New York, will be the first in a series of public attacks on Alex Salmond.

Below a headline reading 'Welcome to Scotland' is a photo of rusting, broken wind turbines built almost 30 years ago that have become a 'coastline eyesore'.

A caption reads: 'Alex Salmond wants to build 8,750 of these monstrosities - just think about it!'

Mr Sorial said there was no budget limit on the campaign and warned his boss was prepared to spend many millions to protect his investment - his £750million golfing resort on the Menie estate north of Aberdeen.

In response to claims Mr Trump had earmarked £10million to fight Mr Salmond on wind power, Mr Sorial said: 'It could be a lot more than that.'

It was after learning of plans to build 11 650ft turbines, directly off the coast from his newly built championship course that Mr Trump found himself on a colli-

## THESE NEW TURBINES 'WILL STEAL OUR WIND'

**A WIND FARM owner is objecting to plans by a rival to build turbines nearby - in case it steals its wind.**

U.S.-based Ellis Hall Consultants is opposing an application by Caithness Power to build four 80-metre (262ft) turbines at Houstry, Caithness.

The proposed development lies less than a mile from Boulfruich Wind Farm, near Dunbeath.

The Caithness Power application will be considered by Highland Council's planning committee today.

According to papers lodged with the committee, Ellis Hall Consultants says the plan to erect four turbines near its own 15 turbines would capture wind it uses and cut its productivity by up to 25 per cent.

Recommending refusal on the grounds that it would result in 'unacceptable visual impacts', Highland Council development management team leader David Mudie says in his report: 'Added to this is the potential for the development to "borrow" the wind resource from another existing, more productive

scheme. From a sustainability point of view, this just does not stack up.'

However, Cameron Sutherland, an agent for Caithness Power, described the claims made by the owners of Boulfruich as 'utter nonsense'.

He said: 'For their claims to be valid, the 15 turbines at Boulfruich would have to be stealing wind energy from each other. If you space the turbines out, as we are proposing, there will be leak losses of around 3 per cent within the project itself.'

'If you consider the separation of 1.5km (0.93miles) distance between the proposed project and the turbines in Boulfruich, the claim of stealing wind from the site is completely wrong.'

In his report, Mr Mudie said it was possible there could be some loss of productivity in certain wind conditions. However, he added that Highland Council had no specific policy on protecting the productivity of existing wind energy developments.

course with the First Minister. Ironically, it was Mr Salmond's administration that intervened to ensure that Mr Trump's complex could go ahead after it had been rejected by councillors.

Now Mr Trump regards the First Minister as an opponent rather than an ally and has broadened

his anti-wind farm battle to cover the whole of Scotland.

The billionaire has pledged to fund the marketing costs of campaign group Communities against Turbines Scotland.

He is to address a rally of anti-wind energy marchers in Edinburgh next Thursday, when he

gives evidence at a parliament renewable energy inquiry.

Mr Sorial said: 'We have made a significant investment and created something the global golfing community is referring to as a masterpiece. We are now going to defend it.'

'We view this as a marathon, a protracted battle that we intend to stay in for the long haul.'

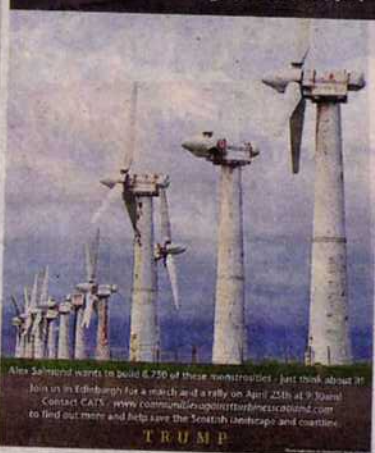
Mr Sorial said Mr Trump was fighting to safeguard the landscape at all historic links courses, including St Andrews and Royal Troon.

He added: 'Links golf is part of the Scottish experience, yet almost every one of those courses is threatened by some proposal for a wind farm.'

'If you build an electrical power station, basically what this is, next to them, do you really believe tourists are going to come to play golf beside a bunch of enormous turbines?'

Energy Minister Fergus Ewing will

Welcome to Scotland!



### Battlecry: The Trump advert

decide whether the plans submitted by the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre for turbines less than two miles from the Trump complex can go ahead.

Mr Sorial said: 'These turbines are the equivalent of a 65-storey building. The closest one to us will be 2 km (1.24miles) away. We never intended to be involved in a debate on this but we have now invested in Scotland's future and we are actually shocked by the Government's policies.'

A Scottish Government spokesman said: 'Mr Trump is coming to give evidence to a parliamentary committee. He has not requested a meeting with the First Minister or any minister.'

'Scotland has massive green energy potential, including a quarter of Europe's tidal and offshore wind potential, and we have a responsibility to ensure Scotland benefits.'

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NEW ROUTES  
TO THE