

From: [Council](#)
To: [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Timothy Ballew](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [Becky Boxx](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you for approving the interim moratorium, AB 2018-077B
Date: Friday, August 10, 2018 1:25:24 PM

From: randall potts [mailto:randallpotts@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 12:44 PM
To: Council
Subject: Thank you for approving the interim moratorium, AB 2018-077B

Dear Whatcom County Council:

I am writing to offer my sincere gratitude to those of you who voted to extend the interim moratorium on permits for new or expanded unrefined fossil fuel projects out of Cherry Point. It is vital this moratorium is kept in place while you work to amend the Comprehensive Plan to provide clearer language regarding what materials are considered hazardous substances, and to employ conditional use permits to provide closer review of certain types of new or expanded activities at Cherry Point industries that involve hazardous substances, such as those that have allowed Petrogas to significantly increase their export of propane to Asia.

While some Council Members, and some community members who have spoken in front of the Council, have maintained we have adequate regulations in place, the fact that those regulations did not serve to prevent a trainload of potentially exploding crude oil trains from moving through our community to arrive at Cherry Point daily, is a good example of why we need more regulation. SEPA did not work to protect us from those. Besides being reason for putting more provisions for protection in place now, it is good reason also to look at those reviewing these projects under current regulations and make sure ample due diligence is being taken and meaningful consideration is being given to potential negative impacts of projects involving hazardous materials. The very reason we need better protections is because we have been exposed, under existing regulations, to a grave and unacceptable level of threat to our community members, land, air, water, life forms, and way of life.

Listening to Council's reasoning, both pro and con, regarding extending the moratorium did not offer very much confidence that Council Members are seriously dedicated to solving the climate crisis we are experiencing. I call on you to continue to research and take action to become more proactive in increasing our support of renewable energy enterprises and for finding proper locations for these industries in our region. Unfortunately, a bad choice was made years ago in locating heavy industry in an area which is of extremely sensitive and important environmental and cultural significance. We can find a better location for new and innovative industry that will help us more quickly cease the harmful extraction, transport, and processing of fossil fuels, and the Council and County Planning and Development should set about doing so.

The idea of pursuing a speedy and just transition away from fossil fuels is for our County to be a model, to show other parts of our state and country that we can proactively transition away from fossil fuels. This, in turn, will be a model for all of those other countries that we want to encourage to make that transition, as well. By sticking with outdated and increasingly dangerous energy supplies we model the perpetuation of increasingly misusing resources in a way that is unacceptably damaging to our communities, culture, and environment.

Thank you again for approving the interim moratorium, AB 2018-077B.

Sincerely,

Randall Potts
Bellingham WA