

**From:** [Antonella Antonini](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Carl Weimer](#); [Barbara Brenner](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Ken Mann](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#)  
**Subject:** Whatcom Comprehensive Plan Update: Ch 2 changes  
**Date:** Monday, July 04, 2016 8:27:03 AM

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TO: Whatcom County Council

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Plan

Over the past six months, hundreds of people concerned about fossil fuel export have attended County Council hearings. Thousands more have submitted written comments and signed petitions. Thank you for listening and responding.

I am in full support of Carl Weimer's proposed amendments regarding fossil fuel export infrastructure at Cherry Point. This important vision statement articulates how Whatcom County can support job growth in the clean energy economy. At the same time, it does not disrupt the operations of current industry at Cherry Point.

I particularly appreciate the reference to the Lummi Nation's fishing and historical concerns. I strongly support upholding the Lummi Nation's treaty rights. In addition, I would support strengthening language to include protection for Lummi cultural and spiritual resources as well.

Policy 2CC-13 is an excellent addition to the code, ensuring that county officials comply with the same requirements that apply to federal officials appraising permits for crude oil export projects. If Cherry Point is open to crude oil exports, the return of higher oil prices would mean a massive influx of crude oil tankers and crude oil trains, in order to ship America's crude to world markets. For Whatcom County, this would mean we would suffer all the local impacts of massively expanded crude oil transport--including traffic disruption, higher vessel traffic, spills, and the threat of increased oil train traffic--without any of the benefits of the product itself.

In addition, this policy closes the door to one of the most serious threats to local refinery operations - the prospect of crude oil export replacing local refining.

Policy 2CC-14 advocates for a study to be completed over the next 1.5 years that would examine how the county might address concerns over fossil fuel exports from the Cherry Point Industrial Zone. It in no way limits the current shipping of refined product, but anticipates the need to protect Whatcom County from the many possible projects that would turn our homes into a pass through point for unprocessed fossil fuels. All the negative impacts, and few if any benefits, would accrue from tar sands pipelines like Kinder Morgan; fracked gas pipelines like Steelhead LNG; and crude oil export from the refineries.

Many of the public comments opposing these amendments appear to be unfamiliar with the details of this amendment and conflate a study on how to restrict new fossil fuel export infrastructure with an imaginary effort to shut down existing industry. The proposed amendment repeatedly exempts existing uses and existing piers. There appears to be a concerted effort to confuse members of the public and drum up opposition to these amendments based on a false premise. I hope that your consideration of these amendments will not be swayed by arguments about the

importance of existing jobs and operations at Cherry Point, since those jobs will not be impacted in any way by these amendments.

This forward looking amendment anticipates new industrial development in the clean energy economy and is a critical avenue to ensure that Whatcom County remains competitive in a changing world. I hope you will support the inclusion of this amendment in the Comprehensive Plan and its implementation in the years ahead.

Thank you,

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