

**From:** [Helen Glidden](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** I urge you to pas strong protections to safeguard Cherry Point, our communities and the Salish Sea  
**Date:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 12:52:12 PM

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Helen Glidden  
419 Briar Rd  
Bellingham, WA 98225

June 21, 2018

Dear Whatcom County Council,

Honorable council members,

A large part of our economic stability is tied directly to the scenic and pristine environment in our corner of the Pacific Northwest. This economic viability is once again in jeopardy.

Of great concern is that Cherry Point is at risk again of becoming a transshipment point to load tankers with 'tar sands' heavy crude oil from Canada's Trans Mountain (Puget Sound) Pipeline. This inevitably increases the risk of an oil spill threatening Tribal treaty rights, our Salish Sea communities, shorelines and endangered species (orcas and salmon) and threatening our economic viability.

I appreciate the work to date by the Council toward better protecting the health and safety of our community. I urge you to enact the strongest possible protections in land-use code, including prohibitions and strict conditions for permits in the Cherry Point UGA. First, the County should not be processing permits for projects that have not been authorized as being compliant with Federal laws and treaties governing the Salish Sea. Newcilities to ship coal, oil or gas should be prohibited, and existing facilities should be held to the highest standards for safety and pollution control. Permits for upgrades must require SEPA EIS review of cumulative impacts with a greenhouse gas life-cycle analysis, total mitigation of climate pollution, and conditions to require no adverse impacts on herring, salmon, orca, or other endangered species.

Here in Whatcom County, we have seen the impact of increased oil transport when two oil-by-rail unloading facilities resulted in near-daily shipments of >100-unit explosive tank cars through Bellingham and Ferndale, with only limited public and environmental review. Once again, we are seeing the potential for this risk.

Acting swiftly in putting protections into law and in concert with the First Nation's efforts will hopefully be effective. Thank you for your hard work and diligence in service of our county.

Sincerely,  
Helen Glidden