

**From:** [Ruth Higgins](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** Please pass strong land-use code updates for Cherry Point UGA  
**Date:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 3:51:59 AM

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Ruth Higgins  
7567 Morrison Ave.  
Blaine, WA 98230

June 21, 2018

Dear Whatcom County Council,

Honorable council members,

I am concerned 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, which would increase the risk of an oil spill threatening Tribal treaty rights, our Salish Sea communities, shorelines and endangered species (orcas and salmon).

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. New facilities 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. Furthermore, the County should not be processing permits for projects that have not yet been authorized as compliant with federal laws and treaties governing the Salish Sea.

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.

Please put these necessary protections into law. Thank you for your hard work and diligence in service of our county.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Higgins