

**From:** [Krista Rome](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** Don't let Alberta dictate our County's future  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 27, 2018 2:24:44 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

I wish to add my voice to the large majority of community members who want to see the health of our communities and the Salish Sea held as a priority above the profits of a few oil barons and one of the dirtiest fossil fuel industries, the Alberta Tar Sands.

There are many reasons why it would be terrible for our local communities to allow expansion of the Kinder Morgan (now Canadian owned) pipelines, especially those that transport this bitumen crude that is nearly impossible to clean up when a spill happens in water. Lack of indigenous consent, risks to our marine ecosystem, salmon and orcas, and increased carbon dioxide emissions during a global climate crisis are just a few compelling reasons.

**But I also want to be sure that we do not ignore the devastation that the Alberta Tar Sands have had on the people and ecosystems of Alberta.** We cannot and must not enable an industry that wreaks such havoc at the extraction end. If we allow this oil to pass through our county we are complicit. If we profit from it at all or argue that it creates local jobs, we are also 100% complicit in the impacts to rural Albertan communities.

Given that the vast majority of communities living downstream from tar sands and most impacted by the pollution are First Nations communities, the tar sands have been called an "environmental genocide" by indigenous peoples.

**For a summary of social, climate, and health impacts** of the tar sands on local communities in Alberta, including the draining of rivers, uptick in sexual violence against women, extreme housing cost increase, rise in cancer rates, and destruction of the boreal forest, read:

[https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Facts\\_Canada.pdf](https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Facts_Canada.pdf)

**The Indigenous Environmental Network reports that the basic requirements for tar sand extraction include:**

1. All wetlands need to be drained
2. All rivers in the mine site have to be diverted
3. All trees and vegetation stripped from the surface.

Putting the above into context: existing, approved and currently planned tar sands mines and in situ projects in the region will directly impact more than 772 square miles of boreal forest. This is equal to five times the size of the City of Denver, or 28,465 NFL football fields.

To learn more facts about the Alberta Tar Sands:

**<http://www.ienearth.org/tar-sands-facts/>**

Please pass the strongest regulations possible to protect Whatcom County from new pipelines and pipeline expansions for unrefined fossil fuel export.

Sincerely,

Krista Rome

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