



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY  
RECEIVED

FEB 27 2018

WHATCOM COUNTY  
COUNCIL

February 26, 2018

**Officers**

Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand Avenue  
Suite 105  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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Rebecca Johnson

*Co-President*  
Karen Funston

*Vice President*  
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*Treasurer*  
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Dear Council Members:

Thank you for holding this public hearing on the future of Cherry Point and extending the moratorium.

The League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County (the "League") has long been involved in advocating for the protection of the ecology and the sustainable economic development of Cherry Point. The League joined a successful lawsuit by the Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife and several environmental groups in 1997 to better protect the area. We have a well-developed position statement on Deep Water Ports, part of which is that Cherry Point's ecosystem should not be altered or destroyed, that the number of vessels plying the Salish Sea should be limited, and that cargo with a high risk of harming the environment or health should not be allowed.

We urge you to extend the moratorium on new permits for infrastructure at Cherry Point related to the export of unrefined fossil fuels. We also ask that you continue to seek out environmentally and economically sustainable industries for this area.

We understand that you will receive an advisory report from Cascadia Law Group at your February 27, 2018 meeting. As you consider the recommendations in this advisory report, we ask that you continue the moratorium. The moratorium should not be discontinued until the County has a plan to protect the local community from the impacts of proposed fossil fuel transshipment facilities in Whatcom County

We have appreciated your support of these values in protecting our natural resources and sustainable economic activity.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Johnson  
Co-Presidents  
League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County

Karen Funston