

To: The Whatcom County Council
From: Clara Jean Carmean
Date: February 26, 2018
Subject: Cherry Point Moratorium Extension

Thank you for holding this public hearing on extending the moratorium on NEW permits for infrastructure at Cherry Point to export unrefined fossil fuels to Asia, and for sharing the study on how to permanently protect us from the dangers of oil trains and bulk oil shipment.

I urge you to extend the moratorium in order to protect not only Whatcom county residents, but the future of our planet as we know it.

Fossil fuels were responsible for the 19th century Industrial Revolution, a mixed blessing, but the 21st century Industrial Revolution is a green one. Most countries in the world are welcoming this, and, as you know, even China has become concerned about the effects of fossil fuel burning on the health of its citizens, is cutting back on coal burning, and has become a leader in the manufacture and installation of solar panels. This moratorium, along with the Council's push to seek and support environmentally friendly industries that use water economically will bring Whatcom County out of the 19th century.

The slogan "Protect Cherry Point Jobs" is an empty one. Shipping unrefined oil overseas will endanger existing jobs, not protect them. The jobs will follow the unrefined oil.

And what about the \$4.5 billion fishing industry, the \$270 million shellfish industry, and the 63,450 jobs which they generate annually?* Already fossil fuel burning, in Asia and in the U.S., has caused air pollution and warmer, more acidic ocean water, which has harmed our fishing and shellfish industries. Taylor Shellfish, just down the road from us, must ship it's oyster seed to Hawaii because the larvae can't survive in our acidic Salish Sea. And in the years since we have lived on Chuckanut Bay the sea of lights on fishing boats between our shoreline and Lummi Island has been reduced to 3 of 4 desperate boats during sockeye season. The ocean has been absorbing CO2 for hundreds of years, but it has become saturated. We must stop this steady decline. And a cape size tanker spill in the Salish Sea, would be devastating. *WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife site.

Full disclosure: I was on an Amtrak train heading for a Vancouver, Washington meeting when the Mosier derailment occurred. We all watched the news on our cell phones in horror. Living just above the railroad tracks, I must admit that I do not look forward to being incinerated in a future accident. Or even to being exposed to yet more diesel exhaust and coal dust which already coats the rhododendron leaves that form a visual barrier between our home and the tracks.

My personal situation is not my major concern. But I worry about the environment that my 20 year old granddaughter will have, in what is currently one of the most Eden-like areas of the country.

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FILE UNDER AB 2018-077
DATE RECEIVED: 2-27-18
SUBMITTED BY: Clara Jean Carmean
 COUNCIL MEETING
 COMMITTEE
EXHIBIT: F