

From: [Wendy Harris](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Wendy Harris](#); [Chad Yunge](#)
Subject: Cherry Point Expansion Should Be NO GO
Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018 7:28:04 AM

I am attaching the following story on the efforts being made in China to reduce air quality. They have adopted an aggressive and restorative program that exceeds what the U.S. is doing. I think it is a misconception to believe that we must ensure the Cherry Point refineries continue to operate and refine fuel because U.S. standards are so much higher than China's standards and we will be end up breathing in the pollution when it travels to the Western U.S.

<https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/blogs/chinese-troops-deployed-plant-trees-battle-against-air-pollution>

China has declared war on air pollution. Several years ago, Premier Li Keqiang renewed his vow to make the skies blue again. China is already reducing the production of steel and of coal-fired electricity. To replace coal, China has become the world's biggest investor in wind and solar power. The latest effort to plant thousands of trees over vast acres of land may be its most promising. Trees are nature's pollution filters, while serving as a carbon sink and a source of fresh oxygen. Trees help lower temperatures on land and water and protect biodiversity, along with a full range of other ecosystem benefits that I will not go into here.

It is the United States that is falling behind the rest of the world in its efforts to fight climate change, reduce air pollution, the use of harmful chemicals and pesticides, and to mitigate the impacts of increased growth and impervious surface. In particular, we are doing poorly with regard to air pollution. Trees are the lungs of the land and they must be respected. Instead, I see the tree corridor that used to line 1-5 from Ferndale to the border being cut down to make room for dairy cows, clear train tracks or accommodate rural residential growth. How very sad, counterproductive and regressive.

I urge you to restrict any additional exports of fossil fuel, whether refined or unrefined, over current capacity at Cherry Point. Do we even know what that amount is in order to establish a baseline in fighting against incremental expansion, which is actually the more serious threat at Cherry Point than a major development permit or a conditional use permit.

Please do not buy into the ridiculous arguments that Cherry Point industries have "a

right" to remain competitive..i.e, to expand. That is not the law and no one is provided vested rights to expand simply because a permit to operate was once granted. Allowing the export of refined fuel creates a legal risk for the county by creating the appearance that we are trying to favor exports that provide local jobs over those that do not and I assure you this is one of the very first claims that the same companies arguing for this will raise in a Commerce Clause litigation case. I see no reason to allow the refineries and Cherry Point industries more time to plead their case to the council. They have already been given special opportunities that were not available to the public.

In sum, neither China nor the state of fossil fuel as refined or unrefined should impact this council's ability to follow the plan in the original resolution on point, which was to restrict Cherry Point expansion if it was determined to be possible. It is possible and it is time for this council to step up to the plate and take a stand for the greater good of the county. Keep our trees but prohibit expansion at Cherry Point, or any other significant sources of air pollution and nearshore and aquatic degradation.

Sincerely

Wendy Harris

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