

From: dena@dayintheparkdesign.com
To: [Council](#); [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Timothy Ballew](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [Jack Louws](#); [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Matt Aamot](#)
Subject: Please approve the interim moratorium on applications and permits for new or expanded unrefined fossil fuel export projects at Cherry Point
Date: Friday, August 03, 2018 11:49:10 AM

Dear Whatcom County Council:

I am writing in support of the ordinance imposing an interim moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications and permits for new or expanded facilities in the Cherry Point urban growth area, the primary purpose of which would be the shipment of unrefined fossil fuels not to be processed at Cherry Point ([AB2018-077B](#))

I have been pleased to see the County Council committee members and staff moving forward in drafting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan regarding the Cherry Point UGA. So far, it appears the amendments being developed will offer greater potential for community members to have a say regarding projects involving hazardous substances that would be a threat to our community and the communities where these substances are extracted, transported through, and processed. This is the very least we can do to help prevent unreasonably dangerous situations that we have been burdened with in the recent past such as the approval of crude oil trains that are arriving daily at Cherry Point refineries and the insufficiently scrutinized increase in the transport and handling of propane at Petrogas. These are types of enterprises that could inflict potentially devastating impacts to our communities and our environment.

While I call on you to approve the interim moratorium on such new projects, I also call on you to continue to be watchful of emerging court decisions that may help offer a conducive environment to enacting even stronger protections and a more permanent prohibition against fossil-fuel-based projects that are unacceptably threatening to the safety, health, and existence of our community, country, and planet.

Here is a link to an article regarding the recent ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court where they refused to hear a challenge to the city's ordinance to ban new fossil fuel infrastructure. So far, the Oregon Court of Appeals decision to overturn the ruling of the Land Use Board of Appeals against the City of Portland's zoning ordinance has been upheld. <https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2018/08/01/portland-fossil-fuel-infrastructure-ban-survives.html>

Meanwhile, a just transition away from fossil fuels can be considerably hastened if we invest meaningful time and effort into supporting

enterprises advancing renewable energy sources that are quickly becoming economical and accessible. Conversely, we are not going to make the critically expeditious shift away from fossil fuels necessary to avoid planetary disaster if we continue to take actions, for example, like not providing spaces specifically for renewable energy industry representatives on the Business and Commerce Advisory committee that offers opportunities for regularly scheduled and more intimate input to the County Council regarding business and commerce in our community.

Thus, I call on you to, not only approve the interim moratorium, but also to ever more vigilantly and effectively seek to protect the health and safety of our area and planet for future generations.

Sincerely,
Dena Jensen
Birch Bay

dbobena@yahoo.com