

From: [Council](#)
To: [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Timothy Ballew](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [Becky Boxx](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#)
Subject: FW: Yes, on the interim moratorium (AB2018-077B)
Date: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 8:30:32 AM

From: Marian Beddill [mailto:marian@noneofthethree.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 10:14 PM
To: Council
Subject: Yes, on the interim moratorium (AB2018-077B)

Dear Whatcom County Council:

I am writing to add my voice 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)

Whatcom County has been under attack from fossil fuel interests which have set their sights on Xwe'chi'eXen (Cherry Point). We will have to continue to endure a never ending siege on Xwe'chi'eXen unless we can get stricter and permanent protections in place. The advocates who want to see more fossil fuel development at Xwe'chi'eXen have framed things as "jobs versus environment." This isn't about jobs and it's never been. That's just a public-relations talking point. This is about our future survival and I suspect everyone knows that deep down. But somehow, companies like BP, Phillips 66, SSA Marine, and others have convinced some workers at industries located at Xwe'chi'eXen and some of their advocates that those current jobs there are under attack. That's just a public relations talking point too.

Our County, via direction of the County Council, needs to take further actions necessary to protect public health and safety as well as protect the future health of our environment. There continue to be emerging court decisions that can offer a pathway toward creating and enacting even stronger protections and a more permanent prohibition against fossil-fuel-based projects here in Whatcom County which put our community's safety, health, and environment at an unacceptable level of risk.

Below 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>

As council members for Whatcom, you can take action to mitigate the risks to our community's safety, health, and environment, but you need the time to put those plans into action, such as code changes, permitting regulations, and changes to our County's comprehensive plan and shoreline management plan. And you need courage because there are big, wealthy corporations which are applying great pressure to you as they are driven by profit. I, as many other community members do, have confidence that you have enough courage to continue to keep the moratorium in place until you can get all of those needed protections in place.

I urge you to stand strong, and to do what I'm sure you know is the right thing to do by approving this interim ordinance which will continue to allow you time until Council can get those necessary actions fully into place permanently.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards,

Marian Beddill
Bellingham