

From: [Council](#)
To: [Becky Boxx](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#)
Subject: FW: from Thelma Follett: Please approve AB2018-077b and continue the protections provided to the people and environment of Whatcom County
Date: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 11:22:32 AM

From: Thelma Follett [mailto:thelmafollett849@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 11:04 AM
To: Timothy Ballew; Barry Buchanan; Todd Donovan; Satpal Sidhu; Rud Browne; Tyler Byrd; Barbara Brenner; Council
Subject: from Thelma Follett: Please approve AB2018-077b and continue the protections provided to the people and environment of Whatcom County

Dear Whatcom County Council,

I continue to support the moratorium on 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.

All of us are by now well informed enough to agree that the future (even the near future) health and economic well-being of the planet is dependent upon renewable resources. Promoting fossil fuel industry enterprises at this time is only a step backward.

A look at the current status of coal alone makes this clear:

“newly released data shows the coal industry is doing worse today than it was when President Barack Obama was preparing to leave office in January 2017. Coal production is still on the decline. Coal-fired power plants are still closing...both coal exports and domestic coal consumption will decrease in 2019. renewables continued to boom. In 2017, wind supplied 6.3 percent of electricity generation and utility-scale solar made up 1.3 percent. Meanwhile, 2017 was the first time a reduction in U.S. power sector carbon emissions could be attributed more to renewable energy and energy conservation than the nation switching from coal to natural gas to generate electricity..” (Hand, mark, “Coal industry on steady decline under Trump’s leadership: New government forecast shows ongoing decline in coal’s share of electric generation,” Aug 7, 2018, <https://thinkprogress.org/latest-government-statistics-show-coal-industry-on-steady-decline-under-trumps-leadership-188e724520e6/>).

With regard to the grave danger posed by “the transport of dangerous fuels” through our community, for a number of years now the community has been studying and commenting on this issue. Conditions have not improved as the latest article by Eric de Place points out:

“Each vessel shipment of crude oil, refined fuel, and petrochemicals contributes incrementally to the growing risk of a spill in the Salish Sea. Worrisomely, data from the past decade reveal rapid growth in oil and oil-

product tankers sailing to and from Puget Sound destinations. In fact, its waters see roughly three more tank vessel transits each day than they did twenty years ago.... Puget Sound shorelines remain a prime target for refineries, shipping terminals, pipelines, and oil train depots." (de Place, Eric and Ahren Stroming, "Will Washington's Oil Industry Ever Stop Expanding?", July 10, 2018, <https://www.sightline.org/2018/07/10/will-washingtons-oil-industry-ever-stop-expanding/>).

Sometimes as I drive around our congested streets and I look up at the foothills now being covered by housing, I feel angry that the City and County Council seem to be determined to sell us all out to the highest bidder.

But, we all live here together. We all, even you, have a vested interest in preserving the little of beauty and environmental health that we have left in this county.

As Eric de Place said, currently, "the Northwest is poised between promise and peril," especially with regard to the toxic vested fossil fuel industries foisted upon us.

Please help us achieve the promise and most assuredly help us avoid the very real peril of further depredations at Cherry Point.

Sincerely,

Thelma Follett