

My name is Jack McBride and I live in Bellingham. I want to speak on behalf of both a continuation of the moratorium on the expansion of the piers at Cherry Point, and in favor of a comprehensive long range plan for Whatcom County based on the recommendations made in the Cascadia Law Group Report.

When considering how to implement any protective measures the Shoreline Management Act appears to be the strongest basis for the County to establish meaningful review and approval processes for expansion of the piers and their utilization.

The urgency of this activity has been magnified substantially by what's ~~all~~ happening all around us. For example:

1. The US has become the second largest exporter of oil products after Saudi Arabia, which signifies a growing focus on markets outside the US.
2. Canada has taken over the ownership of the Kinder-Morgan Trans-Mountain Pipeline, including the Puget Sound Pipeline. The Canadian Govt. plans to expand the pipeline, including the US spur that runs through our county from Sumas to Cherry Point in order to maximize their international sales of Tar-Sands Oil from Alberta.
3. Tar-Sands Oil is the world's dirtiest fossil fuel to produce, refine and burn. It also is the most dangerous to ship and handle because spills are virtually impossible to clean up. Still for economic and political reasons, Canada plans to increase their shipments of this awful stuff by seven fold from new facilities in Burnaby.

All of the increased oil shipments from BC and Washington ports will increase the tanker traffic in the Salish Sea from 4-5 tankers per month to one per day further threatening the resident Orca population even before there is a major tar-sands oil-spill. The latter event would devastate the seafood industry in our region.

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Whatcom County residents alone can't stop this parade to environmental destruction, but we should try to slow it down and do everything that we legally can do to manage the shipping activity in our costal waters. If Cherry Point eventually becomes nothing more than a trans-shipping point, all the refinery jobs will be lost to Asian nations anyway.

Finally within the last two weeks we've all seen how the resident Orca population that depend on bountiful salmon runs are struggling to survive. They are the "canaries in the coal mine" for all of us in this beautiful region.

Thank you.

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