

From: [Council](#)
To: [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#); [Ashley Ubil](#); [Becky Boxx](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comments for July 9th Public Hearing re: Cherry Point Amendments
Date: Monday, July 08, 2019 8:31:38 AM

From: Clarissa Mansfield [mailto:clarissjanae@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 07, 2019 6:26 PM
To: Council
Subject: Public Comments for July 9th Public Hearing re: Cherry Point Amendments

July 7, 2019

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to submit to you my comments in advance of the July 9th meeting. I am worried there will not be enough time during the public hearing for me to submit my comments regarding the draft amendments that pertain to Cherry Point that are currently being considered, so I offer them to you in writing now. Please consider them along with the other public comments made during the meeting on the evening of July 9, 3019.

I have submitted my comments many times during the past several years, but my latest comments pertain to what I regard as weaknesses in the current draft that do not hold existing oil refineries to high enough standards.

I understand that in the face of international pressures to expand oil shipments through Pacific Northwest, particularly in our region, the County Council has proposed legal protections that would require fossil fuel projects meet standards that will protect our community's public safety and the environment. I support legal protections for the people and the environment of which we are a part that prevent new fossil fuel shipping facilities, but these protections should also hold oil refineries to stronger permitting requirements in order to reduce pollution and increase safety, particularly when upgrading, modernizing, expanding, maintaining, or otherwise modifying their facilities.

My understanding is that conditional use permits are only required under certain circumstances, and that many of these circumstances are tied to percentage of population growth or increases in capacity. I am concerned that existing draft language makes certain protections unenforceable, and I am also concerned about the relationship between percentage and capacity. My concerns are not about production capacity—they are about impacts—adverse impacts, risk, and pollution. I want to make sure that the standards we hold the industry to factor in these considerations. Regulation based on capacity is arbitrary, and impacts and risks get lost in this equation.

I am worried because in many ways, the fossil fuel industry is the expert in terms of understanding what they want and how to navigate the system. Because of this, they have the upper hand when compared to people in this community who have to live with the adverse impacts and risks caused by the fossil fuel industry. My understanding is that while there is some language in the existing draft amendments that bolsters environmental policy, potentially giving the County more support if they do need to reject a permit, there is little that ensures an EIS would ever happen. I would like the draft amendments to ensure that there would be no increase in harm or risk, no net loss of habitat, and strengthen the County's administration of SEPA.

If we regulate, we challenge the industry to do better for the people of this community, to factor our well-being into the equation, so that our interests, health, and livelihoods are not sacrificed in the

name of profit. We already have enough hazards from oil trains, tankers and pipelines here — it's time Whatcom County sets legally enforceable standards to protect public safety and the environment.

Being pro-regulation is not being anti-business. That is a false dichotomy promoted by wealthy corporations who have an interest in protecting their own wealth. Preying on the fears of community members by trying to get them to believe they will lose their jobs or not be able to provide for their families if the health of the community is protected is unconscionable and immoral. Conditions on permits exist to protect ALL of us. I am confident that Whatcom County can stand up to companies like British Petroleum (BP) and hold them accountable for the impacts of their fossil fuel projects. They should be held to standards that protect public safety and the environment.

Thanks you for considering my comments and for doing all that you can to act in the best interests of this community and the people who rely on you to represent them.

Clarissa Mansfield

Bellingham, WA

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