

From: [Council](#)
To: [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Ashley Ubil](#); [Becky Boxx](#)
Subject: FW: Cherry Point Amendments and Moratorium
Date: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 8:55:00 AM

From: Shannon Wright [mailto:shannonw@re-sources.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Council; Rud Browne; Todd Donovan; Barry Buchanan; Barbara Brenner; Carol Frazey; Satpal Sidhu; Tyler Byrd
Cc: Tyler Schroeder; Eddy Ury; Charlie Maliszewski
Subject: Cherry Point Amendments and Moratorium

Honorable Councilmembers,

Thank you for your continued work to protect our county's communities and the natural environment we all depend on. I am writing you to express RE Sources' hope that today will be the last time the council must vote to extend the temporary moratorium at Cherry Point, and that strong, durable code amendments are finally approved this fall.

Please know that we recognize the challenge and imperative you face in making good public policies that are effective, enforceable, legally defensible, fair to stakeholders and supported by constituencies of Whatcom County. As we move forward to the next stages this summer and fall, it is RE Sources' intention to foster a policymaking process that is inclusive, participatory and transparent and delivers the strongest protections for public safety and the environment. *To that end, we do not support a motion to move forward the June 18th draft of code amendments today.*

In good faith with intentions of openness, transparency, and belief in shared values and respectful discourse, RE Sources' Clean Energy Program Manager, Eddy Ury, has been in recent conversations with leading advocates for refinery workers represented by the Laborers International Union (LiUNA), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and United Steelworkers (USW) regarding these policies. This direct dialogue should continue in the coming weeks and months. We believe that proposed policies can be strengthened by incorporating the input of the workers who depend on Cherry Point industries, and who also have a vital role to play in the energy transition.

Our central positions still remain consistent. We need to reform county code to ensure a permitting process that prohibits new fossil fuel shipment terminals, holds existing industries accountable to reduce pollution with their upgrades, and empowers Whatcom County to reject projects that unreasonably threaten the health and safety of people and ecosystems. We also agree that the industrial permitting process should have clear and justified rules that will assure the public that protective conditions are met, while hopefully avoiding gridlock, dispute and permit appeals.

Details still matter, and a close look needs to be taken at policies to assess their effect. Of particular concern in this regard is a policy proposed in the January 29th resolution which instructed the outline of the June 18th code amendments: to require conditional use permits only for refinery capacity increases above a threshold set at a ratio tied to regional population growth (Chapter 20.68.800). This was not a recommended in Cascadia Law's 2018 report, but was specifically instructed by Councilmembers.

We hope that the council's Special Committee of the Whole meetings today are productive, and that matters of concern can be resolved in a timely manner.

Thank you again for all of your work over the years on this issue that is so critical to our communities.

Sincerely,

Shannon Wright
360-510-4766

Shannon Wright
Executive Director
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
re-sources.org | [Facebook](#) | [E-News](#)