

From: [Council](#)
To: [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#)
Subject: FW: Cherry Point Amendments
Date: Monday, August 12, 2019 11:40:26 AM

From: Ted Matts [mailto:senoreel@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 11:14 AM
To: Council
Subject: Cherry Point Amendments

First, thank you for imposing a temporary moratorium a couple years ago concerning new fossil fuel transshipment infrastructure at Cherry Point until the county could create legal protections for people and the environment from impacts of fossil fuel projects.

More currently, I want to thank you for considering all the people in our area and creating some standards that are wanted and needed concerning industries at Cherry Point. As I understand them, **the new rules the County Council is considering for approval will prohibit new coal, oil, and fracked gas shipment terminals at Cherry Point,** as well as empower the County to hold existing industry accountable for pollution, looks good on paper so far and is long overdue – and welcomed by many, many people.

I especially like the requirement of needing new permits and conditions for Changes of Use, so that existing terminals don't change to become shipment hubs for fossil fuel industries, especially as Cherry Point is a targeted route for increased tar sands, oil, and gas shipment from Canada. Getting more specific about Whatcom County law and regulations will help tighten up some current laws that are vulnerable to loopholes and gray areas that oil companies could exploit to sue Whatcom County for rejecting permits with unmitigable negative impacts to our communities.

Prohibit new shipping piers, docks or wharfs at Cherry Point seems like the only way to go as well – although I wish some post-fossil fuel era we could utilize the Cherry Point coast outside the Herring Beds Protected zone for shipping of more finished product goods. But it is obvious that one oil spill could cause irrevocable damage to already problemed fisheries in the area.

Helping mitigate the damage already done in the area by requiring the expansion of existing refineries to meet more up-to-date environmental conditions, including mitigation of climate pollution, is also a good way to proceed. That can handle to costs and need to balance out the massive pollution that they already create and emit.

I am not an alarmist...the chemicals they emit in the air is very harmful and is well documented. Yes, I fly and drive and contribute to the problem. But letting this continue as we have, especially considering a growing local population and our climate continuing to worsen directly related to these kind of enterprises is complicit and irresponsible. You need to take the lead – be our conscience and rationale – and pass, with teeth, these standards this coming fall.

And finally, thank you for making this a public process with announcement and timelines and ways to be involved and heard. This has been an important piece missing for too many years.

Thank you,
Ted Matts

Bellingham WA