

From: jakinsmbgsierracl@gmail.com
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Please protect our community, workers, our climate, and the Salish Sea
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:28:47 AM

Whatcom County Planning Commissioners,

On Sept 12th, there will be a public hearing for the proposed Cherry Point land use ordinance. Then, in the following weeks, you will have an opportunity to strengthen the policy to ensure that it protects our community, workers, our climate, and the fragile Salish Sea.

As a resident of Whatcom County it is critical to me that you recommend this policy to the County. The health and safety of this community is at stake. We can allow development and expansion of industry as long as industry abides by the highest safety standards.

In recent years, several significant fossil fuel expansion projects received permits from Whatcom County without adequate evaluation or significant public input. Our community and our neighbors along the West Coast have been subject to numerous proposed fossil fuel expansion projects – crude oil export, oil trains, coal trains, propane, methanol, xylene export, liquified natural gas storage, bunkering and transport –that would each have significant impacts if allowed here. We hope you agree that given this history of these pressures on our region, that better evaluation of these projects is warranted.

The draft forwarded to you by the County Council has been under development for more than a year. It is informed by Comprehensive Plan Policies adopted in 2017, extensive legal review by Cascadia Law, County Council's formal requests for input from industry stakeholders last December, informal discussions with labor leaders, community leaders, and environmental leaders, as well as dozens of hours of public meetings by the County Council, and hundreds and hundreds of public comments.

With that in mind, I urge you to focus on making sure that the details of the policy will align with the council's clearly established intent and then move the policy forward in a timely manner.

Sincerely,
Judith Akins