

From: [Nick Engelfried](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Cherry Point Amendments
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2019 9:00:06 PM

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to express support for the proposed Cherry Point draft code amendments. I attended the Planning Commission town hall on this subject last Thursday, but was unable to stay long enough for my name to be called for verbal comments. I thank you in advance for considering these written comments instead.

Regardless of whether we like it or not, climate change caused by carbon emissions from human activities are a reality of today's world. It therefore makes no sense to continue permitting major industrial projects without taking into account their associated carbon emissions. I see the draft code amendments as a first step toward recognizing that the carbon footprint of any proposed new project or major upgrade to an existing facility at Cherry Point must be considered, when deciding whether or not it should proceed. The ban on unrefined fossil fuel exports would also prevent some of the worst possible future projects in terms of climate impact, while ensuring we are not exporting refining jobs overseas.

I am an environmental educator who takes children and young adults outside to experience some of Whatcom County's precious wild places. I regularly talk with students about climate change, and I have heard again and again that they are worried about their own futures in a world where runaway carbon emissions are allowed to continue. It is heartbreaking to me that middle and elementary school students are suffering from chronic stress because they worry about the climate crisis--a crisis that the adults around them have failed to keep from happening. While we residents of Whatcom County may disagree about many things, surely we can agree that the young people in our community need assurance we are looking out for their future.

While the draft code amendments will certainly not end fossil fuel processing at Cherry Point, they will help put us on the path toward a cleaner, lower-carbon future. This is a future that is coming whether or not we embrace it; the only questions are: Will it come fast enough to mitigate the worst of climate change? And will we seize the opportunity to be at the forefront of the clean energy revolution in Whatcom County, thereby securing our community a place in the green economy? I believe this is an opportunity we must make the most of.

The Cherry Point code amendments are a reasonable first step toward recognizing the environmental impact of carbon emissions and ensuring this impact is taken into account when we make decisions about projects at our ports. We owe it to today's children and future generations to take this step; if we do not, there will be no good way to explain to our young people why we didn't act while there was still time. Please join me in supporting the code amendments.

Sincerely,

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