

From: [Steve Garey](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Proposed Cherry Point Amendments
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019 1:24:58 PM

I am writing to encourage the planning commission to support the proposed comprehensive plan amendments developed by the county council. While nothing is perfect, the proposed amendments represent an excellent effort to strike a pragmatic balance between contentious issues of great importance to all citizens of Whatcom county.

As proposed, the amendments present a roadmap that will allow this community to protect the fossil fuel industry we have while creating incentives for the clean energy economy we need. They create a framework that allows for a manageable transition to cleaner energy while protecting health, safety, the environment, and the current economy at the same time.

Permits needed to insure that refining facilities are as modern, clean, safe, and efficient as possible are supported. This is in the best interests of both the local economy as well as community and environmental safety. The amendments would prohibit the export of crude oil or the creation of trans shipment facilities or logistics terminals. Prohibiting these activities is also in the best interests of health, safety, the environment, as well as the economy as it helps to protect existing jobs.

Appropriate use of conditional use permits and environmental impact study is included to insure that all impacts are known and addressed. These tools should be used not necessarily to deny permits, but to insure that project applicants do what they say, and community benefits are realized, rather than something else.

Any increase in emissions should be mitigated locally by putting local people to work in effective conservation strategies. Also, permit applicants must be adequately insured to protect local taxpayers from harm. These measures are also supported by the proposed amendments. For all of these reasons and more I ask you to support the councils work on this most important policy.

Thank you for your consideration.
Steve Garey
Executive Committee, Washington State Blue/Green Alliance
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