

**From:** [hoppies238@aol.com](mailto:hoppies238@aol.com)  
**To:** [PDS Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Cherry Point Amendments  
**Date:** Sunday, September 15, 2019 2:21:42 PM

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To the Planning Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Cherry Point amendments. I write in support of the amendments for the reason that climate change mitigation needs to begin now.

My name is James Hoppie and I live in Bellingham. I am a retired geologist and was employed in the petroleum industry for 33 years.

On Sept. 12, I witnessed a parade of predominantly Phillips 66 employees address the Cherry Point amendments Planning Commission Town Hall with the same two-prong argument repeated over and over. They argued that local Phillips management would find themselves at competitive disadvantage to other Phillips refineries for corporate funding for continued operations, and that jobs of individuals were at stake.

The refinery and industry speakers repeatedly argued for a free hand to operate, but they did not mention their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Increased global climate damage was highlighted by a speaker early during the Sept 12 session, but the industry speakers who followed ignored the information, offering no help to Whatcom County to mitigate its climate change.

This was my experience in the petroleum industry: they want unfettered access to all developing opportunities, they volunteer nothing in return and then they ignore the consequences of their own activity. Their view is that it is not the job of the corporation to protect the environment and climate, climate-change mitigation is a job left to someone else.

I think that the someone else is government, at all scales of jurisdiction. Mitigating climate change is a matter that needs to begin now. Our federal government is failing us, Whatcom County and other jurisdictions need to step in.

By sending their parade of employees to the Planning Commission meeting on Sept. 12, Phillips once again employed one of the industry's old tricks... use the big corporation to politely bully the small-scale regulatory agency holding the keys to substantial profits. Run 'em over. The argument that the overflow house heard on Sept 12 may have been repeated over a hundred times, but it was only one argument: operations funding difficulty with job risk. That single argument needs to be compared to the single more-compelling argument that was not repeated many times on Sept 12: climate change mitigation needs to begin now, here. The County Commissions can do something about it by passing the Cherry Point amendments. Please do so.

Thank you.

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