



North Cascades Audubon Society

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September 10, 2019

Whatcom County Council

Dear Council Members:

I am writing today on behalf of the North Cascades Audubon Society regarding the proposed County Code Amendments for Cherry Point.

As an organization committed to protecting both resident and transient bird populations and other wildlife and their habitat, we are keenly aware of the importance of the Cherry Point area ecosystem and the critical need to protect all of the species that inhabit this unique area to ensure that all of us, humans and wildlife alike, have clean air and clean water and a healthy environment in which to thrive.

The multinational oil companies and other large industrial corporate producers located at Cherry Point have largely acted with impunity for over 60 years, obtaining major facilities permits that have been approved without meaningful environmental impact studies or review and with inadequate consideration of critical safety requirements.

It is high time to do this a much better way. We must adopt common-sense standards to protect all of us and to help the Salish Sea and the surrounding area become a healthier place, now and for generations to come. It is imperative that the following key protections in the code amendments be included in order to raise review standards for fossil fuel projects in the Cherry Point industrial zone. NCAS specifically urges you to:

- Prohibit new coal, oil or gas transshipment facilities**
- Prohibit new shipping piers, docks or wharfs in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve**
- At existing facilities, all fossil fuel storage and transshipment upgrades or additions should require conditional use permits with protections**
- All new projects at new or existing industries should require greenhouse gas mitigation, for infrastructure that reduces fossil fuel consumption such as clean power, energy efficiency, building retrofits, and transportation improvements**
- Strengthen code “change of use” definitions so that existing terminals serving refineries do not change use to become transshipment hubs for unrefined fossil fuels like crude oil, tar sands, coal or fracked gas**

Thank you for responding to public input and recognizing the need to prohibit new fossil fuel shipment terminals and to reform our County Code so that Whatcom County

is empowered to hold existing industries accountable not to increase hazards, and to encourage industries to invest in upgrades that reduce pollution and risk while creating good paying jobs.

Sincerely,

/S/

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