

From: [Tamara Nelson](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Comprehensive Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 5:07:42 PM

Whatcom County Council Members:

Stop politically targeting Cherry Point Refineries on the basis of carbon reduction standards.

My husband and I recently moved to Bellingham after doing research on several PNW small cities. Despite the recent issues with the water rights, we chose to move to Bellingham because of the clean, pristine environment that still appeared to support a healthy, diverse economy. If the economy is affected, which it most clearly will be because of the restrictive, subjective proposed changes in the Comprehensive Plan, it will affect everyone's housing values. School funding will decline because the tax base will decline.

1. The energy business is complex and competitive, and this is a turning point in the industry. If the Cherry Point refineries are not able to compete with other refineries in the West, they will perish. Two of these refineries are among the most efficient in the West. The alternative is to bring in petroleum products from less safe, more expensive alternatives – and those alternatives are not investing in renewable fuels, like the Cherry Point refineries are.

2. You have legal advisors (Cascadia Law Group) whom you are paying with our taxes. You have eNGOs (Stand.Earth and Community for Sustainable Resources) who have a direct line into the Whatcom County Council. The eNGOs wrote the original wording, gave it to Todd Donovan, who walked it into a Council meeting, and they ran with it. After learning that much of the content was illegal, the Council hired Cascadia Law firm to recommend changes and give it some teeth.

Who are your science, engineering, and economic advisors? Their input is needed for not only balance against the naïve predictions of continuing sunny economics in Whatcom County as a result of the proposed permitting changes, but to use critical thinking and facts to serve a larger part of the community's interests, besides the Council.

3. There are inconsistencies in the Plan the SEPA codes, as proposed. Reference **2CC-18. Treat renewable fuels facilities similar to fossil fuel facilities.** That is contrary to completing the work required to meet the Paris Accord and the instructions from State elected. The Council has been directed by Rudd Brown to ensure that any *"...changes to the county code NOT cause any of the following: 2. Unnecessarily delay improvement that would have*

a positive impact on climate change, such as increased efficiency, reduced pollution or greenhouse gas emissions.” How would the Planning and development groups be able to separate and prioritize those projects?

Please solicit input from energy experts before moving forward with this plan. Learn more about what the Cherry Point businesses are doing to be part of the solution to climate change.

Respectfully,
Tamara Nelson
360-366-6219

4122 York St.
Bellingham, WA 98229

--

Tamara Nelson
Lean Master Black Belt
Mobile: (720) 822-7765