

**From:** [Council](#)  
**To:** [Ashley Ubil](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cherry Point Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2019 9:19:50 AM

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**From:** randall potts [mailto:randallpotts@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 15, 2019 4:28 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Cherry Point Amendments

Dear County Council Members

Thank you for responding to public input and initiating a public review process for the Cherry Point Amendments. I tried to attend the Public Hearing on 9/12/19, but I was bullied and shoved and blocked from entering the council chambers by oil company workers wearing their uniforms. I believe that hate and disinformation is being spread by local radio KGMI on their Saturday morning "The Halterman Show" that likely contributed to the hostile environment I encountered in the County Courthouse. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but not to their own facts and certainly not to demonizing other community members with differing opinions. This is a serious matter. As a consequence of the hostile environment, I am I am sending my comments to County Council by email.

I firmly believe that we need to prohibit new fossil fuel shipment terminals and to reform the county code so that Whatcom County is empowered to hold existing industries accountable to the public and not increase hazards, and instead, invest in upgrades that increase safety and reduce pollution. I am glad that Council members recognize the need for these common sense reforms that do not impact current jobs at Cherry Point and allow the community a greater voice.

There are two other points I would raise. First, I am concerned that the proposed environmental mitigation rule could be enforced via a fee that would be used to mitigate other environmental concerns at other sites. This is a pay to pollute provision that will result in an even more concentrated toxic environment at Cherry Point, which is on the water and could cause great harm to the marine environment.

Secondly, in the Amendments, we must be sure that we do not become a destination for tar sands, oil or gas shipments from Canada that use Cherry Point as a fueling port/but not refining stop on fossil fuels destined for Asia. If new piers/terminals are allowed, these shipments will certainly occur with devastating consequences for our community including: huge increases in large tanker traffic with pollution (to air, water, peace and quiet and the marine environment), greater danger for our endangered Orca population, destruction of

our local fisheries and violations of our Treaty obligations with the Lummi Nation.

It is time that Whatcom County embraces its right and duty to protect public safety and our environment by setting reasonable standards for industry at Cherry Point. If that duty is not taken up, we risk living in a place that is unrecognizable compared with what we have today and we will have lost for good all that makes our County bountiful, beautiful, and healthy.

Sincerely,

Randall Potts

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