

**From:** [Paula Rotondi](#)  
**To:** [PDS Planning Commission](#); Paula  
**Subject:** Whatcom County Draft Ordinance Cherry Point Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019 12:28:46 PM

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Dear Planning Commission Members,

Whatcom County Council Members worked hard, smart, and long to write a strong draft ordinance with Cherry Point code amendments containing substantial protections for public health and safety and the environment - upon which all lives depend. The Council's draft ordinance also takes Whatcom County one step along the way in doing its part to address the climate emergency. Every day that Whatcom County doesn't act in accordance with the October 2018 IPCC report <sup>1</sup> is a day closer to forcing those alive just twenty years from now to live without what is most essential to our lives today – clean air and water, adequate food, safe communities and beautiful natural places to enjoy. The 2018 IPCC report tells us that to prevent global warming from exceeding 1.5 degrees C, we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% within the next eleven years or those alive just 20 years from now will suffer the worst possible consequences of climate change.

Global warming of more than 1.5 degrees C makes much of the earth uninhabitable due to rising seas<sup>2,3,4</sup>, frequent cataclysmic storms<sup>5</sup>, intolerable heat<sup>6</sup>, droughts<sup>7</sup>, wildfires<sup>8</sup>, disrupted agricultural cycles<sup>9</sup>, scarcity of land-and-sea-based foods<sup>10</sup>, and insufficient sources of clean water<sup>11</sup>. The insurance and financial industries warn that repeated catastrophic consequences of global warming make properties in affected areas uninsurable, undesirable and unsaleable – and decrease economic interest in issuing loans, mortgages and bonds in these areas<sup>12, 13, 14, 15</sup>. Global warming of more than 1.5 degrees C will result in millions of people on this and every continent moving away from uninhabitable areas and overcrowding areas that still have life's basic necessities.

Please pass the draft ordinance without delay; we have only 11 years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45%. Please give those alive 20 years from now a chance to have some of what is most important in our lives today.

Sincerely,

Paula Rotondi

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