

To: The Whatcom County Planning Commission
From: Jean Carmean
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Thank you for holding this town hall.

It has become a cliché that Climate Change is the existential threat to our world. But that does not make it any less true. My personal experiences coincide with scientific evidence of acceleration.

Five years ago I was sitting on a rock on our stoney Chuckanut beachfront with my granddaughter when she said, "Grandma, there aren't very many barnacles anymore."

She was right. We had already witnessed the disappearance of starfish, limpets, and the occasional oyster. Hermit crabs no longer scuttled along wearing snail shells. And when we set a crab pot we no longer got the limit on the first haul as we had only three years before. If we were lucky we would get one or two. Now we don't even bother to get a license. Clearly, this is a pretty rapid acceleration. This resource, along with the salmon fishing boats which used to light up the bay all the way to Lummi Island, is gone, and with them the livelihoods of hundreds of families. Why do we never hear anything about the loss of THESE family wage jobs?

My personal experiences with Chuckanut Bay have been confirmed by scientific studies which show that the ocean has grown warmer and more acidic, thanks to fossil fuels burned in **Asia**. So why would we, in the name of protecting family wage jobs and Cherry Point refineries keep shipping fossil fuel to Asia, and propose shipping bulk oil as well ~~in the name of protecting family wage jobs at the Cherry Point refineries?~~ The refining jobs will go where the unrefined fuel is, and dangerous pipelines and expanded rail facilities would support jobs in Asia.

Two days ago it was announced that a new "blob" of warm, acidic water is forming in the Pacific right now. More trouble on the way. Everybody wants to save the Orcas, but generally the conditions which destroy eel grass, herring, and the salmon which they need to survive are ignored.

Fortunately our County Council has taken climate change seriously. The proposed changes in the code have been thoroughly vetted and reviewed by a law firm. Many of us here tonight

have testified at multiple Council meetings. The draft ordinance and code changes which the Council has proposed will protect our environment and our citizens' health and safety from expanding fossil fuel shipment. Please support these proposals.

I never thought that I would be dreaming of more barnacles. But I am. Because if the shore becomes hospitable to them again, then maybe we humans as well as salmon and Orcas, can also be safe.