

**From:** [wendy.courtemanche](mailto:wendy.courtemanche)  
**To:** [PDS Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Cherry Point Code Amendments  
**Date:** Saturday, September 21, 2019 1:17:20 PM

---

To Whatcom County Planning Commission Members:

I am writing to you to strongly support the Draft Code Amendments concerning Cherry Point that have been prepared for your review. I think it is very important that we do not allow new fossil fuel transshipment facilities to be constructed at Cherry Point. We know there is great pressure to increase fossil fuel exports from our coast which would expose our marine environment to the risk of spills, increased tanker and train traffic, and harm to the environment for our native herring, salmon, orca and the local fishing industry, which is already threatened by reduced fish populations.

I also believe there is a need for increased conditions on permitting for upgrades and additions to the existing industries at Cherry Point. There needs to be stronger oversight regarding potential environmental impacts of any changes at these facilities, including "Change of Use" conditions, and mitigation plans for climate impacts of any new projects.

We need to be forward-thinking in our planning and actions to prevent further environmental damage and to prepare for a future in which there is decreased dependence on fossil fuels. That means diversifying to clean and sustainable energy production while there is still time to do so.

I am disturbed by the messaging of refinery representatives who paint this issue as an attack on jobs by environmentalists. Increased oversight and a ban on new transshipment facilities would not endanger existing industry jobs. We want to protect good paying jobs locally but we also need to be realistic about the future of fossil fuel related jobs as the economy, local government, and the public begin to transition away from the use of fossil fuels. Instead of preparing for this transition, industry representatives are attacking community members who have concerns about protecting the environment and the future health and well-being of this place we all call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Wendy Courtemanche, Bellingham, WA