

**From:** [Council](#)  
**To:** [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)  
**Cc:** [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#); [Ashley Ubi](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Protective Standards for Cherry Point - Land Use Code Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 17, 2019 1:39:26 PM

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**From:** Tina McKim [mailto:[tinamckim@yahoo.com](mailto:tinamckim@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2019 12:46 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Protective Standards for Cherry Point- Land Use Code Amendments

Council members,

Thank you for inviting public comments regarding land use code amendments at Cherry Point. I am deeply concerned with the threats to our ecosystems, public health and economic future posed by current and possible new fossil fuel projects at Cherry Point and throughout our county. Here in Whatcom county, salmon runs are dwindling, unpredictable weather threatens our crops. Homes, fields, workers, tourism and public health suffer from increased forest fires all around us. Things will not improve unless we work to prevent further degradation of our environment and protect natural resources and our communities. We are already facing unprecedented climate change and are at a critical juncture for action to prevent further disastrous effects. Additionally, almost everyday we read about significant and horrifying fossil fuel accidents: oil train and pipeline explosions (including here in Bellingham in 1999), leaking pipelines, public and worker exposure to dangerous chemicals and fumes.

Our communities and ecosystems deserve the highest protections. Workers deserve safe, good-paying, sustainable jobs that innovate and look to a future beyond the outdated and harmful fossil fuel industry. Whatcom county has the good sense and ingenuity to protect our vital ecosystems, create a just transition for fossil fuel workers to sustainable, economically strong energy infrastructure, and encourage new forward-thinking industries.

For all of this to work, code amendment protections must be strong- without loopholes and prepared for current as well as future threats.

I ask that you enact strong, binding legislation that will:

- Prohibit new coal, oil or gas industries at Cherry Point and puts conditions on the existing ones;
- Prohibit new shipping piers, docks or wharfs at Cherry Point;
- Require new permits and conditions for Changes of Use, so that existing terminals don't change to become shipment hubs for crude oil, tar sands, coal, or fracked gas;
- Require expansion of existing refineries to meet conditions including mitigation of climate pollution.

I know there is increasing pressure from fossil fuel companies to include Whatcom county in processes that expand oil and gas (including tar sands projects). For the sake of our ecosystem, our public health, and our economic future, we must resist these efforts. Oil is on the way out. It makes no sense to expand a dying industry at so much risk to our ecosystems and communities.

Thank you for your time and service,  
Tina McKim  
Bellingham, WA