

From: [Stratton, Joe:](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: September 12th County Planning Commission Meeting
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 8:06:19 AM
Attachments: [My name is Joe Stratton.docx](#)

My name is Joe Stratton. I supervise the laboratory at the Phillips 66 Ferndale refinery. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the county's proposed changes to the Cherry point Comprehensive Plan and Code.

I have worked in both oil refineries in Whatcom county since the ARCO refinery, now B.P., started up in 1970.

The two refineries have been run well and safely for many years. They have made many environmental improvements, and both have built or are planning renewable fuels projects. The projects will inject a large amount of money into our local economy and provide many high paying new jobs, jobs that will allow our children to start Whatcom county careers and Whatcom county families of their own.

California has been actively trying to discourage and shut down their oil refineries since the 1970s. They have the highest fuel prices in the country. Oregon has never allowed oil refineries in their state and they probably never will. They think their future is safe with logging and beer and fishing. Washington is following the lead of California in trying to discourage the Oil and fuels industries. I can't think of another state the wants to be like California. We can have the same high fuel cost as they have if we continue down the same path.

If we discourage our fuels industries, we will all pay the price. The homes we live in and heat and cool with natural gas, oil and coal generated electricity will have to find more expensive ways to be heated and cooled. The cars we drive, fueled with gasoline, diesel, and coal generated electricity, will need to find other energy sources. Those energy sources will come from India, Russia, and many other places around the world. They will not come from the west coast, and our children will not be making them.

Most of my lab staff are chemist trained at Western Washington University. Most of the chemists at the BP refinery were trained at Western Washington University. There are no other good paying chemist positions in Whatcom county. Our children who train in the sciences will have to go to Seattle or other places in the country to find work. Let's not force them to take jobs at Starbucks, or Costco, or Walmart to stay in our county. Let's keep the good career jobs here at home.

Please consider your decisions carefully and decide to invest in our families and our futures here in Whatcom county.

Joe Stratton

P66 laboratory Supervisor

Ferndale