

From: lavendula@netscape.com
To: [Council; PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Cherry Point
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Thank you for responding to public input and initiating a public review process for Cherry Point Amendments.

I hope you recognize the urgent need to reform county code so that Whatcom County is empowered to reject projects that unreasonably threaten the health and safety of people and ecosystems, and ensure that existing industries are held accountable not to increase hazards, but rather invest in upgrades that reduce pollution and risk while creating jobs. In your review of the proposed amendments, we will appreciate that you listen to public input, engage in open dialogue and promote transparency in the remainder of the public review process for these important legal protections.

Current laws are **vulnerable to loopholes** and gray areas that oil companies could and would exploit to sue Whatcom County for rejecting permits with unmitigable negative impacts to our communities. We are asking you to:

- * Prohibit new coal, oil or gas transshipment facilities,
- * Prohibit new shipping piers, docks or wharfs in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve,
- * At existing facilities, all fossil fuel shipment and transshipment upgrades or additions should require conditional use permits with protections,
- * All new projects at new or existing industries should require greenhouse gas mitigation, for infrastructure that reduces fossil fuel consumption such as clean power, energy efficiency, building retrofits and transportation improvements.
- *The code needs stronger “change of use” definitions so that existing terminals serving refineries do not change use to become transshipment hubs for unrefined fossil fuels like crude oil, tar sands, coal or fracked gas.

Thank you for your service to our communities.

Linda Thompson Avinger
Whatcom County resident