

From: [Robin Aspman-O'Callaghan](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Cherry Point Draft Code Amendments
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 11:27:59 AM

Planning Commissioners,

Hello. My name is Robin Aspman-O'Callaghan, I have lived in Whatcom County since 1976, my husband and I currently reside on Lummi Island. There is an urgent need to reform our county code so that Whatcom County is empowered to reject projects that unreasonably threaten the health and safety of people and ecosystems. This is very important to those of us who live on the water, near these areas-our main industries out here, fishing and tourism, depend upon clean waters.

The reformation of these codes would ensure that existing industries are held accountable not to increase hazards, but rather invest in upgrades that reduce pollution and risk while creating jobs. As a business instructor these areas are the areas of growth in industry. Most who are in the know are moving forward, not backward. The few who are pushing this agenda are trying to squeeze what they can out of a dying industry at the expense of the community. In business, this change in industries is called disruption. What we are seeing in business is a move towards sustainable industries and an economic walk-away from those industries that create too many negative side effects.

My husband and I moved here over 40 years ago - I remember 'tuna gas', and the real fear of toxic fumes (chlorine) from GP. If Senator Magnuson had not stood up for the protections that were passed on tankers, who knows what our waters would be? We need to remember this area is a gift that MUST be protected, so the sustainability of its resources can be harvested, but not at the expense of others. Solid regulations ensure this-it is the hand of the wise counsel leading those who may only be thinking of their own desires. I have taught business ethics, among other business courses for over 30 years and during that time the companies that thrive and grow engage in serious support and interaction with its community. Short-sighted gains are not where we are as a community, we need to take in the 'big picture' of what we truly have a responsibility to protect.

Thank you for your volunteer service to our communities.

Robin Aspman-O'Callaghan, Ph.D., M.Ed.
Principal Faculty/ Curriculum Developer-Sustainability
raspman-ocallaghan@cityu.edu
robin.aspman-ocallaghan@gmail.com
360-319-5162

City University of Seattle
521 Wall Street
Seattle, WA 98121

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