

From: [kim clarkin](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Cherry Point land use amendments comment
Date: Wednesday, October 09, 2019 1:12:17 PM

I am writing in support of the County Council's Cherry Point land use amendments you are currently looking at in detail. Please work to enhance and, if needed, strengthen the council's goals of

- limiting increases in fossil fuel traffic in our county and
- expanding the public's ability to understand and influence changes in industrial facilities that could affect our environment, health, and safety.

I believe it is important and fair to require the industries to recognize and disclose the negative effects proposed changes will have on the environment surrounding their facilities as well as the global environment. Those costs have been largely externalized till now; that is, others have had to pay them in damage to things like wildlife habitats, health, peaceful surroundings, and security.

The Conditional Use Permit process will also be an opportunity to publicize beneficial effects as industries gradually move from working only with fossil fuels to incorporate larger shares of renewable energy. It will be an object of community pride if the County can produce fuels that will help the transition to a carbon neutral economy without suffering damage to our local resources.

Please keep in mind that the amendments directly affect an area that has been recognized by the State as uniquely valuable for its aquatic resources: the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve (CPAR). These amendments support the goals of the CPAR Management Plan, which importantly include protecting water quality. All the diverse animal and plant species in the Reserve—including Cherry Point herring—depend on minimizing or preventing oil spills. Spills introduce organic pollutants that, even in minute amounts, have been shown to harm developing fish embryos. Limiting the expansion of fossil fuel shipments, and encouraging transition to greener fuels may help to improve water quality at Cherry Point.

I understand that you and the council are walking a narrow path, trying to minimize any harm to the existing Cherry Point industries while constraining growth in what has been their primary purpose for so many years. I ask that you continue to work toward our shared objective of reducing carbon in the atmosphere and ocean, while minimizing impairment of the many benefits to the local society that the industries provide. I am confident the industries are strong enough to work within the new framework as they gradually shift toward a greener future.

Thank you for considering my comment, and for your careful, nuanced work in the face of this controversial change.

Kim Clarkin
2608 Mill Av
Bellingham