

From: [Bill Henshaw](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Cherry Point Comprehensive Plan Amendments
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Planning Commission Members, Planning Commission Members

The County Council has dumped some work that they have been involved in for over three years on your shoulders as Planning Commission Members. As it has evolved, it has changed for the worse, at first, it was they did not want to ship unprocessed fossil fuel from Cherry Point and now the recommendations put all of the industry there at risk of being unable to operate. The rules that they are proposing are so draconian that it is doubtful that any major company will want to attempt to go through the additional steps being proposed. The companies will instead allocate funds to projects that are in locations that do not have the onerous requirements and Whatcom County is the loser.. We are in danger of losing 3300 high paying jobs, plus a significant amount of tax revenue, as well as the donations of time and money by the companies and their employees to worthwhile projects around the County. No one working at Cherry Point or anywhere in the County wants to create air quality problems and what is not being recognized is the tremendous improvement in air quality that has resulted in government getting out of the way and allowing these businesses to innovate.

It is clear that we are moving away from fossil fuel and over time that will probably be accomplished, we must recognize that this is a global problem and eliminating fossil fuels here will not solve the problem globally. If we look at the facts, it is apparent that the US in spite of not being part of any current global accord has done more to eliminate CO2 than any of the countries involved in those global accords. My point is this we need to work cooperatively with these industries and not throw up road blocks to real progress.

Please ask yourself these questions, if those jobs go away what will replace them, consider the impact of the loss of 3300 high paying jobs on the other businesses around the County, where will the tax revenues come from to replace what these businesses are currently paying? Finally if these businesses depart why would any new business come to Whatcom County to subject themselves to the kind of treatment the oil refineries are receiving.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission to stand up and be counted and not allow their recommendations to echo the misguided efforts going forward at the Council level.

Respectfully submitted,

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