

From: [Vicki Thomas](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Support of County Council Resolution 2019-037
Date: Monday, October 07, 2019 11:01:44 AM

Dear County Council Planning Commission

As a citizen of Whatcom County who dearly loves the natural beauty of the area and the enriched lifestyle that it affords us, I strongly urge you to approve the resolution 2019-037 as it is written and as quickly as possible.

Given the history of spills and major ecological disasters caused by shipping of fossil fuel and the increasingly fragile and endangered nature of our fisheries, our waters, our salmon and our orcas, it is crucial that we submit any new construction to serious and thoughtful environmental review and a rigorous permitting process. One spill from the proposed increased traffic in the Salish Sea could wipe out any hope of salmon or orca recovery. It could decimate our fisheries.

A new pier, in particular could be disastrous. Such a pier would require sinking concrete pillars 30 feet into the the water, destroying eel grass and herring which are critical to salmon and orca, survival. It would also negatively impact the fishing industry, which is already imperiled.

The fossil fuel industry has a miserable record of disastrous spills which cannot in fact, be truly cleaned up. The tar sands oil that Canada wants to send via pipeline is so heavy that it cannot be cleaned up. That pipeline, which sits in front of a middle school, has already killed 3 young people.

The argument that the fossil fuel employees put forth, i.e. they only want to work and keep their jobs is not served at all by allowing Cherry Point to be an unrefined fuel shipping point. The good fossil fuels jobs are in the process of refining. Shipping unrefined fuels across the globe sends the jobs across the globe as well.

The world is at a tipping point. The decisions we make now determine not just some distant future, but what the immediate future holds for us all.

Again, I urge you to take a reasoned, thoughtful approach and approve/support county council resolution 2019-037 for the good of ALL who live here.

Thank you,
Vicki Thomas
Bellingham