

From: [Sandy Robson](#)
To: [Council](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Carol Frazey](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Barbara Brenner](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Jack Louws](#)
Subject: In support of AB2019-597
Date: Sunday, December 01, 2019 9:05:02 AM

Dear Whatcom County Council members:

I am writing to voice my support for AB2019-597, an ordinance imposing an interim moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications and permits for new or expanded facilities in the Cherry Point UGA, the primary purpose of which would be the shipment of unrefined fossil fuels not to be processed at Cherry Point.

I appreciate that the County Council has been keeping this protection in place during the time work is being done and pending the approval of Cherry Point amendments to Whatcom County's comprehensive plan and code needed to adequately protect and prioritize the culturally and environmentally sensitive lands and waters at Cherry Point, known to the Lummi Nation as Xwe'chi'eXen.

Whatcom County continues to be under attack from fossil fuel interests which have set their sights on Cherry Point for new development and/or expansions. We will have to endure a never-ending siege on Cherry Point unless we can get stronger, permanent, legal protections in place.

This is about our future survival and I believe that, deep down, everyone here knows that. But, somehow companies like BP, Phillips 66, Petrogas, Williams Pipeline and their advocates, have convinced some workers and others that those current Cherry Point jobs are in jeopardy. That is messaging created by pro-fossil fuel interests' public relations experts.

It's imperative that we protect public safety, tribal treaty rights, and our environment by creating stronger and permanent protections and finalizing those, so they can be put in-place.

Until the Cherry Point amendments process which the Council has been diligently working on for several years has been completed, it is critical to that process that the interim moratorium is extended.

You council members can, and need to, take action to reduce the risks to our community's safety, health, and environment, but you need time to finish putting those legal protections into action with code changes, permitting regulations, and changes to our County's comprehensive plan and shoreline management plan. The interim moratorium allows the Council that needed time.

There are big, wealthy corporations driven by profit, which are applying great pressure to you. I understand and appreciate the courage needed to see this endeavor through to final completion, so that all this hard work Council has been doing for the last several years will not be in vain.

Our County has seen some of those companies even apply that pressure by trying to influence our elections such as this year's general election when Phillips 66 contributed \$60,000 to a PAC backing the pro-fossil fuel candidate for county executive, Tony Larson.

The Cherry Point companies have big money which they have been spending on attorneys to write detailed letters on their behalf; on public relations and public affairs professionals to create messaging and to submit written and verbal comments (on behalf of those companies) to the Council and the County Planning Commission; on advocacy organizations such as the Whatcom Business Alliance to push the messaging of those Cherry Point companies, and to paint the Council's actions on the Cherry Point amendments in a negative light; on campaign finance; and on other things.

All someone like myself can do is to write a letter such as this one to you Council members or to go to the December 3 Council meeting to deliver my comment to you verbally. It can sometimes feel overwhelming to look at, and feel, the seeming imbalance of that power. But myself and others like me are not giving up because we see what is at stake — our future survival and our children's future survival, both of which are more valuable than all of those wealthy companies put together.

I urge you to continue to keep the interim moratorium in place until you can get all of those needed protections in place. We are depending on you Council members as our last line of defense.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Regards,

Sandy Robson