

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: FW: Cherry Point Moratorium
Date: Thursday, May 28, 2020 9:34:15 AM

From: Heather Bender <bender-family@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 7:38 AM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Cherry Point Moratorium

County Council-

I am writing in support of lifting moratorium on Cherry Point businesses. These businesses provide living wage jobs to so many in Whatcom County. The loss of the businesses in this county would be devastating not just for the families who rely on the income but the county as a whole. I find it interesting that as I am writing this...a post from Mr. Elenbass' campaign showed up in my newsfeed. I will share some of those facts with you.

"Often we hear local leaders talk about "sustainable communities" but what constitutes a truly sustainable community? Did you know?

-Cherry Point industrial area jobs pay an average of \$110,690 per year, 243% more than the average County wage of \$45,491.

-8 Cherry Point businesses and their at least 3,320 employees have a disproportionate impact on the County's economy, because of the significant "multiplier effects" of business purchases and the spending of high-wage employees.

-The businesses in Cherry Point paid more than \$370 million in state and local taxes and \$15 million in property taxes of the overall property taxes in the County, 11% of property taxes for County Road Fund, 15% of the Ferndale Schools, and 21% of the Blaine Schools. The large tax contributions of these industries effectively reduce taxes for everyone else.

The industries in the 5th district supply not only goods and jobs the community needs, they also supply an overwhelming amount of taxes that benefit all of us. A sustainable community would seek to facilitate a regulatory environment in which these companies can continue to improve, upgrade and remain reliable, something our current council has demonstrated they are not willing to do. " - Ben Elenbaas

It's time to let these companies thrive.

Thank you from a family of 7 that has been supported by these businesses for over 13 years.

Heather Bender

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