

**From:** [Council](#)  
**To:** [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#); [Ashley Ubil](#); [Becky Boxx](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium  
**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:28:38 AM

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**From:** DIRK VERMEEREN <DIRK.VERMEEREN.267134692@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 9:23 AM  
**To:** Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium

Honorable Councilmembers ,

To protect the people and natural resources of Whatcom County from hazard liquids expansions that would bring more crude oil, tar sands bitumen, fracked gas, propane or coal through our towns, farmland, and waterways, I am urging the Council to act and represent for our common interests, not just the corporate industry shareholders.

Please maintain the moratorium on permits that would increase the shipment of unrefined fossil fuels through Cherry Point.

Furthermore, I encourage the Council to move forward with a new zoning ordinance to implement development and operational regulations in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan policies for Cherry Point that passed in May 2017. Sadly the current lack of an industry Environmental Impact Liability insurance policy will place Whatcom County & WA State tax payers on the hook for any/all future industry spills as resulting from any natural or manmade catastrophes; ie Cascade earthquake. This industry bailout is does not represent local constituents.

In order to address the risks and harms from hazardous shipments through our county, we can improve Whatcom County Code to ensure transparency about proposals and their impacts, accountability to meet standards for public safety and environmental protection, increase transparency and public participation in the process for reviewing permits for projects with significant impacts. We hope the council will complete this important and thorough rulemaking process within the next six months.

As fuel demand dropped this Spring, we've seen surplus oil moving through Cherry Point from trains onto ships for storage. Opening the door to further increase unrefined fossil fuel transshipment would needlessly place us at undue risk with no benefit. After three years of a diminishing federal oversight of our local environment now is not the time to remove what minimal protections we have in place.

Now is the time for local leaders to stand up and represent their local constituents.

Thank you for your work and service to our communities,

DIRK VERMEEREN  
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