

FW: Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium

Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>

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From: Pam Borso <Pam.Borso.267138940@p2a.co>

Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 1:20 PM

To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Subject: Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium

Honorable Councilmembers ,

You have been doing a fine job of carefully considering what we as a county need to keep us safe from dangerous fossil fuel exports through our county.

To protect the people and natural resources of Whatcom County from risky 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 once more for our common interests.

Please continue 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 regulations in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan policies for Cherry Point that passed in May 2017. 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, and more 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 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. Now is not the time to remove what minimal protections we have in place.

Thank you for your hard work and diligent service to our communities,

Pam Borso
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