

**From:** [Council](#)  
**To:** [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#); [Ashley Ubil](#); [Becky Boxx](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium  
**Date:** Monday, June 01, 2020 3:44:12 PM

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**From:** Jonathan Scanlon <scanlon.jonathan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 3:45 PM  
**To:** Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Cc:** Satpal Sidhu <SSidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium

Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today ahead of your June 2 meeting to ask you to continue the moratorium on permits that would increase the shipment of unrefined fossil fuels through Cherry Point. I am also copying the County Executive on this note.

First of all, we should recognize the true name of this place: Xwe'chi'eXen. This is the historical land of the Lummi Nation. This land was stolen from them. **No development at Cherry Point should occur without the free, prior, and informed consent of Lummi. As a sovereign nation, County Council should interact with the Lummi Nation in an appropriate manner that honors their history, as well as treaty rights.**

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. I hope the council will complete this important and thorough rulemaking process within six months.

I also encourage Council to work with the County Executive to launch a bold project to prepare our County for the future economy. Even prior to COVID-19 we could see the perils of economies based on natural resource extraction. Alaska's economy and state government is failing due to falling oil revenue. We see that impact here with the declining service of the Alaska ferry. We now see large investors like BlackRock pulling out of fossil fuels. We see Warren Buffet now stating that his bet on fossil fuels did not work out. We also see banks pulling out of coal, natural gas, and oil projects. The indicators are there. The financial markets do not exist any more to support these industries. This will impact us. We cannot wait for these markets to fail further. We must act. Even here, we see that Cherry Point businesses do not care about their local workforce. We saw this recently with Alcoa. Large, multinational firms headquartered elsewhere do not care about us, our jobs, or our economy. They only want to make money off of us, and then leave when the money dries up.

It is up to us to build an economy that is sustainable, is built for the future, and works for us. I strongly encourage you to work together with the County Executive to build for that future. That begins by keeping the moratorium.

Regards,

Jon

Jonathan Scanlon  
Bellingham, WA