

**From:** [Council](#)  
**To:** [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#); [Ashley Ubil](#); [Becky Boxx](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cherry Point Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, June 01, 2020 10:59:39 AM

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**From:** Jennifer Steiner <jsteiner@mail.thebluebook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 10:35 AM  
**Subject:** Cherry Point Concerns

Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Whatcom County Councilmembers,

I am writing to express opposition to a renewal of the Cherry Point moratorium and to further convey my grave concerns about the Whatcom County Council's proposed changes for Cherry Point.

As a business owner in Whatcom County, I know how important it is to have stable, predictable regulations that allow my business to be successful and grow. It would not have made sense for me to establish my business in a place that did not make economic sense; likewise, the industries at Cherry Point chose to establish their operations here in Whatcom County, a region that has been historically friendly to economic growth and encouraged innovation. Unfortunately, the changes you are proposing to make to the Whatcom Comprehensive Plan and County Code will undo our pro-business environment and will surely disincentivize future investments in this area.

Companies rely on regulatory stability to ensure that the investments they make in their businesses and infrastructure result in a return on those investments. Cherry Point companies have put down their roots here, investing millions in their operations and employing thousands in Whatcom, not to mention they have also invested tens of millions of dollars in bettering the community, like lowering greenhouse emissions and improving storm water and wetlands resources. The Council's proposed changes will create regulatory uncertainty and will send the message to these companies that any future investments are unwise, severely limiting or effectively prohibiting any new upgrades, operational improvements, and new projects at Cherry Point.

The County Council has spent years crafting these regulatory changes in a vacuum, with minimal industry input and with disregard for economic impacts. Your proposals are not only reckless, but they would have far-reaching consequences for our region's businesses, putting the livelihoods of thousands at risk. That is something we cannot afford as our economy recovers from the global crisis this year.

Especially now in the wake of COVID 19 our leaders should be looking toward the future instead of creating regulations that send us back to the 1970's. I ask you to not stunt our advancements, our job creations, our economic security, but instead take a step back and consider the harm that you will cause. Work with the business community and those that operate at Cherry Point to develop the necessary regulations that work for everyone.

Finally, I have appreciated the work done by the Planning Commission has done on the Cherry Point amendments. They have conducted themselves in an inclusive and transparent manner. The

Planning Commission conduct during its review of the Cherry Point amendments is a good example on how the County Council should handle the drafting of such complicated regulations on industry.

Please do not renew the Cherry Point moratorium and please work closely with industry on your proposed Cherry Point amendments.

Thank you for your time,

*Jennifer Steiner*

**Jennifer Steiner**

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