

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: FW: Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium
Date: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 8:52:51 AM

From: Janet Higbee-Robinson <Janet.HigbeeRobinson.276030156@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:15 PM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Keep the Cherry Point fossil fuel moratorium

Honorable Councilmembers ,

The Salish Sea is uniquely abundant because its inlets are protected from open surf. It is historically home to more life forms than any area except the Great Barrier Reef. I am quoting WWU Biologist Jerry Flora, who advocated for the Sound, taught about it and took folks of all ages to visit tide pools. He would be sad to learn that the Sound is fast becoming a super highway to transport dangerous fossil fuels that do not directly benefit Whatcom County residents. I ask that you elected officials use your positions to protect the uniquely resplendent Salish Sea and us Whatcom residents. Support the moratorium and develop a new code that will ensure its vibrancy for future generations. If you do not, the Salish Sea and its eelgrass, starfish, halibut, Chinook and Resident Orcas will not thrive. Use your powers, please, to create Green Jobs for a Whatcom County that is responsive to climate change and the effects of pollution.

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,

Janet Higbee-Robinson
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