

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: FW: Today's Virtual Meeting email message
Date: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 11:52:42 AM

From: Rick Lair <rlair@matrixservice.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Today's Virtual Meeting email message

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

Dear Members of our Whatcom County Council,

I am a life-long Whatcom county resident, current Lynden regional Parks and Recreation District commissioner and member of your business community, I am writing you today to ask that our Whatcom County Council NOT pass a ninth Cherry Point moratorium and to proceed with great caution as you consider proposed changes for Cherry Point regulations.

These previous months of the COVID 19 crisis should be a great example of how things work when you shut down business without a well-defined short/long term plan. The Whatcom County Council must make it a priority to work with employers to implement regulations that aid in restoring the jobs we have lost due to COVID 19.

I strongly believe that strict regulations and undefined environmental protections curtailing production on industry will have serious consequences. BP Cherry Point / Phillips 66 / Alcoa Intalco companies directly support 1000's of employees but far more importantly support the communities of Whatcom county in which we live. This amounts to well over \$200 million in state and local taxes to fund schools, road maintenance, public safety, and countless additional public services throughout our county – we need those jobs and tax revenue now more than ever.

I believe it is imperative that we work with our elected leaders to implement policies that help businesses maintain and create jobs as we recover economically from this pandemic. The first part of that effort should be establishing a long- term plan that is good for ALL.

I would also ask can this be done peacefully with good communication and planning.

The moratorium has gone on far too long. Please LET THIS expire. We should focus our efforts with the planning commission on bringing the proposed Cherry Point amendments to a resolution that is positive for all that live and work in Whatcom

County. Let's not create policies that potentially target specific industries, we should look for ways to facilitate job growth and protect the livelihoods of many thousands of your constituents.

Recent reviews by the planning commission has resulted in positive recommendations to the County Council's proposed Cherry Point amendments. The Council should allow the planning commission complete its review and then consider recommendations to the proposed Cherry Point amendments that hopefully we all will support. Please consider the economic challenges we currently face; the County Council should abandon the Cherry Point moratorium and involve the appropriate stakeholders so that we can bring the Council's proposed Cherry Point amendments to a resolution that protects and benefits our entire community.

Thank you,
Rick Lair

Rick Lair
QA/QC Supervisor



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