

Good Evening Council Members,

Today we ask you to maintain the moratorium, and pass Cherry Point code amendments this year. Please continue the path toward writing responsible local regulations thereby representing our local community ... not just distant, corporate shareholders and financial investors.

I have testified before this council over the last 4 years as a local community stakeholder but also as a retired oil industry professional. While I have been pro business for my 30 years in the oil industry I believe ethical companies have a responsibility to their communities' not just corporate shareholders.

Some of you may argue that implementing rules and regulations stifle business growth; from my industry experience as an Environmental Engineer I suggest the reason our county has maintained a positive quality of life is because of the operating rules imposed on our local industry.....compliance is not free and thereby not inherently done voluntarily by the industry.

Over the last 3 years we have seen the federal government eliminating laws that were based on scientific findings and stop enforcing existing rules and regulations under the guise of encouraging market growth thereby forcing local communities to suffer degradation of their local environment.

We at the local level have a fiduciary responsibility to implement amendments to our regulations that will continue the overall quality of life that we have today...not just short term monetary gratification.

This includes requiring all businesses engaged in production of potential pollutants to carry adequate **Environmental Impairment Liability** insurance for remediation when we experience a predicted Cascade Rising earthquake. As a taxpayer I do not want to provide a corporate bailout to any industry as they declare bankruptcy and walk away with their profits.

Thank you for allowing me to voice our views.

Dirk Vermeeren

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