

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: FW: Moratorium
Date: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 2:51:18 PM

From: Jennifer M <mcclery.jennifer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Moratorium

Greetings,

I am writing to express my support of extending the moratorium on the export of unrefined fossil fuels.

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful area; a natural area and wonderful community that deserves a healthy environment. To achieve that long term, we need to look forward to supporting and encouraging clean and renewable sources of energy.

Refined fossil fuels, such as the those used at the Cherry Point refiners (and the three others in the state), have been at the center of global pollution that has impacted land and sea. Petroleum accounts for nearly half of the carbon emissions in the U.S. and a third globally (See National Geographic, April 2019, *Fossil Fuels Explained*). In addition to the pollution due to burning oil, drilling and transport also contribute to on-going worldwide pollution and global warming. Accidents such as the Exxon Valdez (1989), Deepwater Horizon (2010), Lac Megantic (2013), and thousands of pipeline incidents contribute to more pollution to air and land.

Oil refineries themselves are known to be a major source of hazardous and toxic air pollutants such as BTEX compounds (in addition to many other air pollutants). Some of those chemicals are known or suspected cancer-causing agents, responsible for developmental and reproductive problems (See Environmental Update #12, June 2003, Hazardous Substance Research Centers).

As a community, I ask each of you to think to the future. To the future for our children and grandchildren. For the viability of our rivers, streams, and inland waters. To a robust Salish Sea that supports mammals, fish, birds, and plants that all interconnect to keep the seas healthy and to provide over 60,000 fishing industry related jobs and billions in tourism dollars from those drawn to the unique beauty and geography of the Pacific Northwest.

Our federal government may have pulled out of the 2015 Paris Agreement so it is up to each community, county, and state to work together to and engage in the deeply challenging efforts to ramp down greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Not only will that support our natural environment, but it will also have a significant impact

on the health of our community members. Covid-19 has, to date, killed over 100,000 fellow Americans, which is a terrible loss to families, workplaces, and communities across the country. Air pollution kills nearly 200,000 Americans yearly and is also associated with an increase in Covid-19 deaths (See New York Times, April 7, 2020). All living things need clean air and water. Those are not needs to be conferred on only portions of our communities and natural environments. They are needs for all living things.

So let us support our whole community (natural and human) and maintain this moratorium while we find courageous and viable methods to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and electrify sectors such as transportation and buildings. We have to make a choice, either choose the quick and easy route of continuing with the use of cheap fossil fuels or make the hard decisions that courageous leaders know are best for a wonderful future.

When the Massai greet one another they first ask, "How are the children?" Let us move toward a future that will allow us to answer that with: "They are healthy, happy, and in harmony with the natural world."

Thank you,

Jennifer McCleery
Happy Valley Neighborhood