

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: FW: 9th Moratorium Extension
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 8:19:02 AM

From: Lori Province <loriprovince50@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Satpal Sidhu <SSidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Tyler Byrd <TByrd@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Carol Frazey <CFrazey@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Todd Donovan <TDonovan@co.whatcom.wa.us>; Rud Browne <RBrowne@co.whatcom.wa.us>; kkirchner@co.whatcom.wa.us; bellenbas@co.whatcom.wa.us; bbuchanon@co.whatcom.wa.us; Lori Province <Loriprovince50@gmail.com>
Subject: 9th Moratorium Extension

Dear Council Members, and Executive Sidhu,

I have written and texted to several of you recently and am following up with this electronic letter in support of my testimony that I will be giving at the public hearing this evening.

I am writing and will be testifying in favor of letting the moratorium lapse. Nine temporary moratoriums is not good business for Whatcom County's ability to provide some surety to its employers or its citizens who work in the industrial area.

Due to the current closure of Intalco, and the global oil insecurity, heavy industry is looking a structural changes that will need to be made in an environment of regulatory certainty, not uncertainty. The tenants at Cherry Point have their own cost centers and profit centers to answer to; they will need to make substantial adjustments here and globally to answer to the pandemic, shareholders, and communities where they manufacture. A lack of certainty will not allow us in Whatcom County to be able to count on tax resources that we need now more than ever in the short term.

I have become aware that there is a lengthy Planning Commission process that is not yet concluded. One of the key takeaways of good, transparent government, is that committees complete their work and present it for consideration. It seems that this hearing on this iteration of the Moratorium flies in the face of that principle, and that you as Council will be attempting to legislate without the input of the key Committee (the Planning Commission) whose product should inform your decision.

I have further become aware that there is a modification to the Moratorium being proposed. This is still, as a practical matter, taking on the Moratorium without the completed input of the Planning Commission. This is still addressing the issue, with optics that look like you as a Council, are attempting to curtail work opportunity in a county that has just lost nearly 800 primary industrial jobs, and, we do not yet know the fallout of vendors, suppliers, etc of the aluminum refinery in jobs lost and tax revenue lost for the secondary jobs. This would be a great time to pause, let the

Planning Commission complete its work, and take up the matter in the most transparent way possible, upon receipt of their recommendations.

I urge you to allow this moratorium to expire. The restructuring that is being caused by the pandemic and the global oil and primary metal manufacturing markets is by no means played out. There will be time to review whether or not the moratorium as a tool has outlived its usefulness, or whether it is required to ensure compliance with necessary regulations. But at this point, the matter is fluid, and the work product of key committees is not concluded.

The decision you make will impact all working women and men in Whatcom County; your decision will directly affect tax collection, and whether the County's services will be impacted toward all of its citizens as well.

Please allow the moratorium to expire.

Best regards,

Lori Province
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