

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: FW: AB2020 – 217 Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 8:22:07 AM

From: Nancy Shimeall <nshimeall@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 7:20 PM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: AB2020 – 217 Ordinance

To Whatcom County Councilmembers:

I urge you to please renew the current moratorium on permits that would increase transshipment of coal, oil, or gas through Cherry Point terminals. We need a balanced, reasonable policy update for Cherry Point.

During these times when our economy and health are fragile, there are major risks we face in Whatcom County that we have an opportunity to mend in the coming weeks and months:

- **Expanding oil and gas increases the risk of devastating spills and explosions;**
- **Ongoing pollution and piecemeal changes have profound, cumulative impacts:** for over 60 years, oil companies have been getting major permits approved without adequate environmental review or safety requirements. Under current statute, expansions of existing facilities can be permitted with minimal review, without recognition of their impacts. We can't let a series of small oil and gas projects cause unknown harm to communities, natural areas and economies.
- **We can't let dangerous impactful projects slip through the cracks:** In 2013, Whatcom County permitted two oil train terminals without public review of their impacts — despite the major risks posed by crude oil trains that have exploded twelve times in the U.S. and Canada since, sometimes killing people.

Importantly, the Cherry Point amendments currently on the table would block a ramp-up of tankers of tar sands oil (the dirtiest crude oil that is extremely hard to clean up) operating here and placing our communities, natural areas, and economies at risk.

You, our Whatcom County Council, could vote for protections for all of our benefit, such as these:

- Prohibit new coal, oil or gas transshipment facilities.
- Prohibit new shipping piers, docks, or wharfs in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve.
- At existing facilities, fossil fuel storage and transshipment upgrades or additions would require conditional use permits with protections.
- Stronger “change of use” definitions so that existing terminals serving refineries do not

change use to become transshipment hubs for unrefined fossil fuels like crude oil, tar sands, coal or fracked gas.

Thank you for all you do to maintain our quality of life, our beautiful county, and our shared environment.

Best Regards,
Nancy Shimeall