

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: FW: Moratorium Vote
Date: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 3:12:05 PM

From: Dan Sorenson <DanielSorenson@matrixservice.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Moratorium Vote

As a long time community member that is being represented by you, an elected council, who is entrusted to vote for the voice of the people and not a personal agenda. Please consider the below text when voting today on the proposed extension of the Cherry Point moratorium.

Let the Planning Commission complete their review, moving past the Cherry Point moratorium, and forward to a viable solution that supports economic sustainability and growth for Whatcom County. Stop the stalemate of the County Council hiding behind the “never ending” moratorium thinking that they are acting in the best interest of the majority of Whatcom County residents. In my opinion, the continuation of the moratorium is not in the best interest of Whatcom County, it is only supporting the agenda of a specific minority group of residents that are anti-industry, anti-growth, etc.

It is the council’s duty and legal obligation to act in the best interest of Whatcom County as a whole and support the existing industry that was lawfully built and operating within Whatcom County, which includes all of the industries within Cherry Point.

The council has recently expressed support for new “Green” projects and/or industry within Whatcom County and/or Cherry Point. This is the time to prove your support and stop extending the moratorium.

Allow the current industries within Cherry Point to prove that they can innovate and provide continued growth with the goal of more environmentally conscious and sustainable projects, products and businesses.

I believe that one of the takeaways from our recent Covid-19 crisis is that the fossil fuels are still an essential industry that cannot be merely turned off like a switch. Even if a pandemic temporarily closes many other industries, and mass people are out of work, we all still need the energy industry, which includes the BP Cherry Point Refinery, to provide electricity and a wide range of essential products that include products like propane and natural gas to heat our homes, cook our food and dry our clothes, fuel to support essential travel including getting all of our essential workers to and from work, emergency services and hospital operations and fuel to transport all of our groceries and other goods and services and many other chemical and gas products that people require to live. We

currently do not have an alternative energy industry that can fully replace our current system and usage of petroleum products. Accordingly, the Whatcom County council should be supporting the existing Cherry Point Industries, and the Whatcom County residents who work there. The Council should be supporting existing industries providing innovative new products, and the infrastructure to support it, like hybrid fuels or other products that will reduced the amount of petroleum products currently being used and may or may not fully replace petroleum product usage in the future. The Whatcom County Council should also be supporting the construction and/or growth of new industries within Cherry Point that aim to provide economic sustainability and environmentally conscious products. The ongoing moratorium will continue to discourage new innovation within the existing businesses and/or industries from occurring within Cherry Point. Vote NO on continuation of the existing moratorium.

If the agenda of some of the council members is to ultimately eliminate and/or replace the current refineries, aluminum and other industries within Cherry Point, let's learn from past examples of what happens when major industry leaves a region without a suitable alternative replacement industry. Look what happened to cities, towns and regions within the northwest and beyond when the timber industry has been severely cut back and/or eliminated. Look what happened to cities, towns and regions within the northwest and beyond when the Fishing industry has been severely cut back and/or eliminated. The absence of both of these industries have resulted in severely depressed economies in those regions. Imagine if Whatcom County eliminated the refining industry from Cherry Point, then Skagit County eliminated it from Anacortes, then Washington State eliminated it from Washington State, then Washington, Oregon and California eliminated the refining industry from the West Coast (Where does it stop?). The entire West Coast would be in an unprecedented depressed economy, unable to move goods and services economically. This result would ripple through all other industries and the whole regional economy resulting in an undesirable region to live in. The solution for positive change, economic stability and future sustainability is not to continue voting to extend the Cherry Point moratorium, it is to work together with the existing industries for a positive future that benefits the entire Whatcom County community. Vote NO on continuing the ongoing moratorium hindering the economic viability of the industries located within Cherry Point.

Thank you for your time

Dan Sorenson
Employee of Cherry Point Industry