



IBEW LOCAL UNION 191

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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Whatcom County Council
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Members of the Whatcom County Council,

As Business Manager of IBEW Local 191 I represent 2024 certified electrical workers and many of them work at Cherry Point facilities. My members depend on the family wage jobs at Cherry Point. I am disappointed on the vote to continue the Cherry Point moratorium. I also continue to be troubled by your proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and County Code. As we struggle to recover the jobs lost due to the pandemic, changing regulations that significantly affect the industries at the Cherry Point Industrial Zone concerns me greatly!

Your proposed changes could have far-reaching implications for the refineries at Cherry Point, such as limiting development of current and future facilities by limiting investment opportunities at Cherry Point. Investment requires economic stability, but by creating these unprecedented changes to our local regulations, you have caused confusion and continue to feed into an environment of uncertainty. This uncertainty impacts this entire region and is not good for Whatcom County's reputation and the future of our economy generally.

Aside from creating confusion and uncertainty, the Council is putting thousands of family-wage jobs at risk and endangering hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax revenue. Cherry Point provides many of our County's highest paying jobs, supporting over 10,000 jobs. Cherry Point businesses also provide over \$200 million in state and local taxes that fund our schools, public safety and other essential county services.

On a positive note I have been following the Whatcom County Planning Commission meetings and have been impressed by the quality of their review of the County Council's Cherry Point amendments. At the very least I ask that the Council allow the Planning Commission to finish its review and please consider their recommendations.

We need employers to continue investing in our County so that they can maintain and create jobs at Cherry Point. I encourage the council to please work closely with labor and business before you make any drastic changes at Cherry Point. We all must work together as we rebuild our future.

Thank you for your time,

Joseph J. Lorenzo
Business Manager/Financial Secretary