

From: [Council](#)
To: [Mark Personius](#); [Matt Aamot](#); [Becky Boxx](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: Fw: Public Comment re AB2020 – 217
Date: Friday, June 05, 2020 8:21:08 AM

From: Christine Mansfield <countrygirlinnw@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 12:20 AM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Public Comment re AB2020 – 217

Dear Sirs and Madams of Whatcom County Council,

Public comments re AB2020 – 217 reveal an outstanding division of public sentiment for and against the Cherry Point moratorium. My concern is that any pending negotiations of this matter during restrictions caused by global pandemic should cease until optimum conditions for re-establishing proper deliberation can occur.

It is obvious that County Council faces expirations and due dates based on previous timeline prior to pandemic conditions, for which important matters are on hold. To deliberate or conclude anything beyond a continuance of the moratorium at this time would be counterproductive and appear to be exploitative politically.

This is my firm assessment of the situation. These proceedings are logically not a debate in the typical manner of extending the existing moratorium, rather a necessary measure due to current halt of all non-essential business activity. Government relations have resorted to minimal communications that rely on further data collection to properly make a decision. To make a decision of this magnitude prematurely when economically and socially we are already at a standstill (with considerable limitations for committee meetings, dialogue, and purposeful connection to the public) would in fact undermine the confidence of the people toward our local government.

We are experiencing a vulnerable time lacking avenues for proper responsiveness to this matter. Please pursue this matter cautiously with regard to all public matters currently in stasis due to COVID19 by extending the moratorium expiration date to a date paralleling full access to public discourse in alignment with proper business proceedings beyond virtual conversation. The scope of this matter spans years and ultimately can impact years to come for which this current year is no time to make rash decisions pressured by economic fear.

Thank you for providing virtual options to continue discussions of ongoing public matters. As such, it is my personal assessment that decisions of this highly impactful subject matter would have disastrous implications politically, economically, and ecologically if made during this tentative and most sensitive time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Christine Mansfield

Whatcom County resident
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