

From: [Vicki Thomas](#)
To: [Ashley Ubil](#)
Subject: Cherry Point
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:37:33 AM

As a citizen of Whatcom County I strongly urge you to submit recommendations soon to the County Council for the permanent ban of shipping unrefined fossil fuels from Cherry Point.

The amendments as written will NOT close the current refineries or prevent safety upgrades. What they will do is prevent UNREFINED fossil fuels from being shipped from Cherry Point. Adopting the amendments as written will not cause job loss, indeed, if unrefined fuels are shipped from Cherry Point, it is likely that the jobs will follow the refining process away from the area.

Any new pier at Cherry Point would cause severe ecological damage to our already fragile Salish Sea. It would required sinking concrete pillars 30 feet into the water which would destroy the eel grass and herring, effectively destroying the Aquatic Reserve and any positive contributions that it currently makes to the survival of endangered salmon, endangered orcas and the struggling local fishing industry.

More tanker traffic in the Salish Sea WILL ultimately result in a spill. It is just a matter of time. Such a spill, according to the Coast Guard CANNOT BE CLEANED UP.

The risk of allowing unrefined fossil fuels to be shipped from Cherry Point endangers the entire region unnecessarily. The danger is huge and real and the outcome un-fixable, once it occurs. It is too big a risk to take.

Ultimately, our community does not belong to the fossil fuel industry. It belongs to each of us in equal measure. It does not exist for the enrichment of a single industry, no matter how big or threatening that industry may be. No industry, no corporation, no entity whatsoever, has the right to demand that a community submit its environment and people to risk of severe destruction or outright annihilation merely to enrich itself.

I end as I began, recommend a permanent ban on unrefined fossil fuels through Cherry Point. Little or nothing is gained by our region or even by our country by allowing unrefined fossil fuels to be shipped from Cherry Point, but everything could be lost. Why should we bear high risk for no gain?

Thank you for moving forward swiftly on this.

Vicki Thomas
Bellingham