

From: [KENT LOOMER](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Protect Jobs In Whatcom County. Support Cherry Point.
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:51:36 PM

Dear Planning Commission County,

Dear Members of the Whatcom County Planning Commission:

New BP corporate CEO Bernard Looney is currently addressing and adjusting their global energy production strategy and is working towards an aggressive carbon free production goal. With the limitations currently handcuffing the Cherry Point Industrial Area by the moratorium being extended over and over from being able to implement, or plan implementation of, any environmentally responsible and targeted growth. This new corporate agenda would allow for new energy jobs within the CHerry Point area, BP Cherry Point specifically, and would mean jobs and tax base growth. As you saw with our neighbors, Phillips 66, the current climate of restrictions are preventing responsible and enviromentally focused alternative energy projects from happening. Please consider the true impact of the Cherry Point Ammendments and support responsible growth of businesses and jobs.

The remainder of this email is something I am sure you have seen already but I wanted to plead my personal case to you as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the topic,

Kent Loomer

I am writing today to express my concerns about the Whatcom County Council Cherry Point amendments. While you have made some thoughtful recommendations for improving these policy changes, there remain significant areas of concern that have gone unaddressed by the Commission that will severely limit or effectively prohibit upgrades, operational improvements at Cherry Point (including renewable fuels projects).

As you are aware, the County Council's Cherry Point amendments are the most significant land-use policy changes to be proposed in Whatcom County in decades. The Planning Commission and the County Council must show great caution and care when making such drastic changes but given the economic impact of COVID 19, you and members of the Council must be more diligent and cautious than ever.

Cherry Point is the foundation of Whatcom County's economy providing 10,000 living wage jobs. Cherry Point businesses in recent years have paid more than \$200 million annually in state and local taxes. Those taxes have resulted in \$10s of millions for local schools, public safety, and other vital county services.

Now the Bellingham Herald is telling us that 700 Intalco jobs will be lost due to their recent closure announcement and another 700 indirect jobs for a total loss of 1,400 Whatcom County jobs. The loss of Intalco and the resulting impact of the current economic realities will no doubt cause a significant reduction in jobs and tax revenue coming from Cherry Point companies.

We are all living with a great deal of uncertainty, much of it out of our control due to COVID 19.

Please, we need you to be more diligent than ever to create certainty for Whatcom's citizens and their livelihoods.

Sincerely,

KENT LOOMER
5490 Tsawwassen Loop
Blaine, WA 98230
loomke@bp.com

