

From: [Sue VanDyk](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Protect Jobs In Whatcom County. Support Cherry Point.
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:20:28 AM

Dear Planning Commission County,

Dear Members of the Whatcom County Planning Commission:

This county's "leaders" seem to do their best to run off any companies offering living wage jobs. In my mind this is done under the guise of enviromental damage in most cases. In doing so the burden of tax revenues are carried by the property owning citizens of the county. With less and less decent wage jobs available and the limits on what can be done on ones own property. The cost of buying and building on your own prperty is becoming prohibitive also with all the permits required and hoops to jump through. Just keeping up with paying the taxes is a struggle. This county was built on mainly agriculture and natural resources which most of which is being threatened today if not already deemed illegal. I think, as an almost lifetime resident of Whatcom County, our way of life here is fading fast. Many of us may even be priced out of living where we love. Please consider those of us who live here and would like to continue to remain and have our families live here when you veto companies that want to come in and offer work for them. The same goes for cottage industries that are being closed for one reason or another. Many of these offering services close to home and softer on the pocketbook than big business. Please keep Whatcom County a place for families to call home. Livable and Affordable ! live

This countys l"leaders" have seem to do there best to run off ng 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,

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