

From: [Paula Rotondi](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: County Code and Comprehensive Plan Amendments
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:06:52 PM

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I believe the only chance for people alive just twenty years from now to have what is most essential - adequate food, sufficient clean water, breathable air - depends upon us doing everything possible today to limit climate change and environmental degradation. So I am disappointed by any and all proposed Code and Comprehensive Plan amendments that weaken Whatcom County's ability to do everything possible now so that those alive in 20 years can lead healthy lives and enjoy some of Whatcom's beautiful natural treasures – Mt Baker covered with snow and glaciers, shoreline beaches, salmon, and the weather of a temperate climate .

I am disappointed by the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 2) Policy 2CC-17 which removes the linkage of fossil-fuel related facilities expansion to levels as of a specific date/date range and disappointed by the Planning Commission's proposal to remove GHG mitigation requirements from the Zoning Code. I am disappointed by the replacement of the originally proposed Policy 2CC-18 which treats renewable fuels facilities similar to fossil fuel facilities - with a new Policy 2CC-18 which gives leeway to production of environmentally harmful fuels called "renewable".

I am also disappointed by the Planning Commissions' proposed changes to the Code Amendments which eliminate consideration of comments of the Climate Impacts Advisory Group and members, elimination of GHG mitigation (Lines 139-141) being achieved in part through answers and information in the "expert evaluation" Environmental checklist. I believe we ignore science and data at our own peril so I find it concerning that the Planning Commission proposes to eliminate use of the GREET Model to assess GHG emissions impacts – not because of any flaw with the GREET Model - but because, "Industry representatives indicated concern". I find it concerning that the Planning Commission proposes (lines 185-189) eliminating GHG mitigation of environmentally harmful fuels labeled "renewable".

As you amend our county's Code and Comprehensive Plan, keep in mind those you love whom you hope will be alive twenty or more years or more years from now.

Please prohibit - without providing verbal escape hatches - new fossil fuel transshipment facilities, new piers and coal plants; treat "renewable" fuels as fossil fuels if a stage in their direct production causes otherwise avoidable and significant, environmental degradation; require conditional use permits for expansion of existing refineries and terminals: update environmental review standards with the most current and scientifically sourced standards.

Sincerely,
Paula Rotondi

