

From: [Barney Smith](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Cc: [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Kathy Kershner](#); [Tyler Byrd](#); [Ben Elenbaas](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#); [Rud Browne](#)
Subject: Cherry Point
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:50:29 PM
Attachments: [PC IBEW191 Ltr 8.12.20.docx](#)

Dear Commission,

I have attached my letter in hopes you will use it to aid you in your decision about the future of Cherry Point. Thank You.

Appreciate your Efforts

Barney A. Smith
IBEW LU191
Whatcom/Skagit Business Rep & Organizer
(360) 441 – 5137

August 12, 2020

Whatcom County Planning Commission
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear members of the Whatcom Planning Commission,

As Business Representative of IBEW Local 191 I represent over 2,000 certified electrical workers many of which work at Cherry Point facilities. My members depend on the family wage jobs at Cherry Point.

As you finalize your review of the Whatcom County Council's proposed regulatory changes for Cherry Point, I ask that you continue to seriously consider the input from labor unions and business. Cherry Point is a vital part of Whatcom's economy and the Planning Commission and the County Council must thoughtfully consider the impact of the proposed Cherry Point amendments. IBEW 191 opposes the amendments as sent to you by the Council. However, the Commission's recommendations have been an improvement. Furthermore, we appreciate that you encouraged industry and RE Sources to draft a joint proposal. The proposal makes some important changes and I urge you to include them in your final recommendations to the Council.

For decades, Cherry Point has been a community partner, employing thousands of Whatcom residents, paying millions into our tax base, supporting local charities, and continuously innovating toward greener energy production. Whatcom residents and union members are proud of our Cherry Point businesses that are part of the fabric of our community, but we get concerned when some of our county's leaders politicize the regulatory process endangering our livelihoods. We all must come together in the challenging economic times we are facing.

In conclusion, the recommendations that you have made to the Cherry Point amendments have been thoughtful and I thank you for conducting collaborative public work sessions and engaging the community throughout this process. We all must work together to protect the environment and create jobs in Whatcom County.

Thank you,

Barney Smith
Business Representative
IBEW Local 191