

From: [Liisa Wale](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Council](#)
Subject: Cherry Point Amendments
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:42:53 PM

Hello Planning Commission and County Council

My name is Liisa Wale and I live in Bellingham. I am writing to you today to stress the importance of protecting Cherry Point and community. For the past 4 years I have gone to almost every one of the Moratorium Hearings and have stood in support of the Lummi Nation and in support of the moratorium at Cherry Point. I have done so because I am deeply concerned about increasing risks and hazards from shipments of fossil fuels through our region.

I have been participating because I know and see a changing climate not only here but elsewhere that I have lived. I also listen to the stories from folks who have lived here much if not all of their lives. They tell stories of what the waters and life in those waters around Cherry Point used to be. What I have observed is that more activity out at Cherry Point is doing permanent damage. This permanent damage is being done in the name of short term activity and in the name of jobs. The industries out there have given those folks who work there a living wage and able to support their families. But I want to put out the question - for how long and at what cost? Across the globe (as well as here in Washington) measures and actions are taking place to insure that we do survive climate change because as law makers you know that things will be much different 20 years from now here and it is in part our responsibility to make decisions now that will protect future generations. This includes the Workers. The industries at Cherry Point are very likely will not be around 20 years from now as the world moves away from fossil fuels toward cleaner/renewable energy and so those jobs will go away as well. It would be great if companies like BP were actually training their employees for future positions as transition begins but they are currently not doing so.

I hope that you will adopt the revisions proposed jointly by RE Sources and industry stakeholders. I also feel that the current draft of code amendments falls short of ensuring that new uses of existing facilities are subject to the same development rules required of new facilities. I and many others hope that Whatcom County Council will

adopt final revisions that close these loopholes.

The Planning Commission chose to remove requirements from the proposed amendments that would require fossil fuel expansions to demonstrate financial security and insurance coverage in case of harm to the public in incidents resulting from projects that increase shipment of hazardous materials. Commissioners also chose to remove requirements for mitigation of greenhouse gas pollution increases. I hope that Whatcom County Council will find ways to meaningfully address these important issues to protect public health and safety.

Thank you for your service to our communities and for taking the time to listen to public input. My heart is with you as you make some tough decisions.

Kind Regards,

Liisa Wale