

**From:** [Jamie K Donaldson](#)  
**To:** [PDS Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Cherry Point Amendments  
**Date:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:20:09 AM

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Dear Whatcom County Planning Commissioners,

I have been a resident of Whatcom County for 12 years now and serve in a volunteer capacity as president of the board of directors of the Bellingham Food Bank. In addition to my concern about food insecurity, I am also concerned about the flow of fossil fuels through our county.

I live in Fairhaven currently, less than a mile from the railroad where I see oil cars rumble by on a regular basis. By coincidence, I happened to be living in Canada in 2013 when the devastating Lac-Mégantic oil rail explosion killed 42 people and destroyed half the downtown area. It chills me to think that the same thing could happen here in Whatcom County, especially if we allow an increase in the transport of crude fossil fuels through our region.

I urge you to finish the process of protecting our communities and the environment by adopting the land use and permitting revisions proposed for Cherry Point, as presented by RE Sources and industry representatives. We've sat through dozens of meetings and public hearings to gather community and industry input, and now is the time for decisive action by the Whatcom County Planning Commission and Council to prohibit new fossil fuel infrastructure and transshipment at Cherry Point. In addition, any new uses or expansions of existing facilities should be subject to rigorous SEPA analysis and require a conditional use permit.

The last concern I wish to raise at this time is the omission from the proposed amendments the requirement that fossil fuel projects at Cherry Point mitigate any increases in greenhouse gases. We must work together to meet the challenge of reducing the harmful effects of greenhouse gases produced by burning fossil fuels. These fuels are made of dinosaurs and are becoming dinosaurs in their obsolescence. Hats off to British Petroleum for leading the industry in its pivot to renewable energy!

Please support the changes already incorporated into the working draft of the Cherry Point ordinance. Thank you for the time you've invested in this arduous and critical process of planning for a safer and greener future for Whatcom County while preserving existing refinery jobs at Cherry Point.

Sincerely,

Jamie K. Donaldson

Fairhaven, Whatcom County