

From: [Wayne Harner](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Protect Jobs In Whatcom County. Support Cherry Point.
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:03:29 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Whatcom County Council Cherry Point amendments currently before you. As you know, these amendments are the most significant land use policy changes proposed in Whatcom County in at least three decades and could significantly affect jobs and economic opportunity for many decades to come.

Cherry Point is the foundation of Whatcom County's local economy supporting thousands of good-paying, family-wage jobs with benefits and delivering millions of dollars in tax revenue each year to support local schools, public safety, and other vital services that promote vibrant, livable neighborhoods and communities.

Yet these are challenging times for many local families and for businesses large and small. The Bellingham Herald reports that the closure of Intalco will result in the loss of more than 1,400 direct and indirect jobs – at a time when COVID-19 already threatens economic opportunity and continues to disrupt the lives of all citizens, every day. Among such uncertainty it seems risky (and perhaps even reckless) to pass major changes to environmental permitting codes which would only create greater uncertainty and disincentivize local investment and growth.

For these reasons we urge you to adopt the joint code amendments submitted by industry (which are included in the Planning Commission packet) in addition to the recommendations made during your previous work sessions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Wayne Harner