

**From:** [Miguel Perry](#)  
**To:** [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)  
**Cc:** [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#); [Kathy Kershner](#); [Ben Elenbaas](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to Whatcom Planning Commission  
**Date:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:55:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Whatcom County Planning Commission.docx](#)

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Dear Whatcom Planning Commission,

As Lead Representative of Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, I represent over 2,000 workers, many of whom work out at Cherry Point. I am submitting this comment for consideration at your August 13<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission public hearing.

I appreciate the work the Planning Commission has done. Your work has resulted in some good recommendation to send back to the County Council and I would also ask that you add the recommendations in the Joint Industry/ RE Sources Proposal that has been submitted to the Commission.

For years I have been following the County Council's actions on their proposed changes for Cherry Point. Our County's economic future has been in limbo as our leaders have passed nine fossil fuel moratoriums and have dragged on their regulatory changes for nearly five years. It seems that this process is nearing the end and I have appreciated your transparency as you review the proposal and provide the Council with recommendations.

As any business leader will tell you, a key component to attracting investment is regulatory certainty. Whatcom County has been the ideal location for growth and innovation as our businesses have enjoyed regulatory certainty for several decades. Unfortunately, these past five years have unraveled these pro-business policies and have already started to scare away potential investors from our region.

Furthermore, Intalco recently announced its closure cost Whatcom County 700 jobs. As our country suffers through the current pandemic, our economy has suffered just as much as our public health. A record number of Americans have filed for unemployment benefits and here in Whatcom. Our County's leaders should be doing everything they can to not only save our current jobs but also help our local businesses employ more union workers.

In closing I would like to thank the Planning Commission for the recommendations it has made so far to the Council's proposed changes for Cherry Point and urge you to support the Joint Industry/ RE Sources Proposal. The stakes have never been higher, let's work together to make sure Whatcom County remains competitive and prosperous.

Thank you,

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***"Put carpenters to work with area standard wages and benefits!"***

Miguel Perry  
Lead Representative  
Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters  
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*For current Contracts visit <http://www.nwcarpenters.org/for-partners/contracts/>*

*For current schedule A's visit <http://www.nwcarpenters.org/for-partners/schedule-as/>*

*For our Signatory Contractor Database please visit: <http://pnw.unionimpact.com/>*

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August 12, 2020

Whatcom County Planning Commission  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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