

From: [Simon Bakke](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Cherry Point amendments: Please protect public health & safety
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:35:30 PM

Planning Commissioners,

My name is Simon Bakke from Bellingham. As a resident of Whatcom County, I am concerned about increasing risks and hazards from shipments of fossil fuels through our region to local communities and the ecosystems that our whole region relies on. These amendments will prevent increased impacts from fossil fuels as well as keep refining jobs local.

In your review of the proposed Cherry Point Amendments, I appreciate that you listened to public input, engaged in open dialogue and promoted transparency in public review process for these important legal protections.

I hope that you will adopt the revisions proposed jointly by environmental advocates and industry stakeholders. Additionally, 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. We hope that the 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 surety 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 volunteer service to our communities.

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Disclosure: I am an employee of RE Sources, but I am writing you on my own time as a resident of Whatcom County. Thank you.