

August 13, 2020

Whatcom County Planning Commission
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

RE: Cherry Point Amendments

My name is: Andrew Gamble

Honorable Planning Commissioners,

On behalf of Petrogas, I want to commend and thank you for your thorough review of the proposed amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and County Code. This is a critical process with long-term impacts. We appreciate the chance to engage with other industry participants and Re-Sources in creating a final draft, and feel it was a good faith effort by all parties involved.

However, Cherry Point is the economic foundation of Whatcom County supporting thousands of jobs and paying hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes that support schools, public safety and County services. With the current state of the economy in Whatcom County, the high degree of uncertainty and the demonstrable economic benefit that Cherry Point provides, we question the timing of the monumental changes in the amendments for such a vital economic sector. Also, this week Petrogas submitted written comment to express our concern and objection to the re-issued SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) related to the Cherry Point amendments.

That being said, while the final version of these revisions may not reflect all of our preferred changes to the amendments, we think the current version represents substantial progress and is a better and a more workable version than was originally proposed. We want to encourage the Planning Commission to accept the current version as jointly proposed on August 3rd and incorporate these revisions into your final recommendations to the Whatcom County Council.

Again, thank you for your thorough review of the proposed amendments and we appreciate the opportunity to participate. We look forward to working with the County Council on the proposed changes in the future.

Thank you,
Andrew Gamble
Petrogas