

Good evening. My name is Christine Hansen, and my husband and I have lived in Bellingham for nearly 14 years. As a resident of Whatcom County, I'm concerned about the increasing risks and hazards from shipments of fossil fuels through our region.

If there were an oil spill in the Salish Sea, we would be adversely impacted because of the pollution of the water as well as the damage to the varieties of sea life found there. In addition, regional tribes who have depended for generations on the Salish Sea for their fishing would suffer due to the degradation of the waters.

In your review of the proposed Cherry Point amendments, I've appreciated your listening to public input, participating in open dialogue, and promoting transparency in the public review process for these vital legal protections.

My hope is that you'll adopt the revision proposed jointly by Re-Sources and industry stakeholders. In addition, the current draft of code amendments does fall short of ensuring that new uses of *existing* facilities are subject to the same development rules required of NEW facilities. I hope that County Council will adopt final revisions that close these loopholes.

The Planning Commission removed 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 by 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 the Whatcom County Council will find ways to meaningfully address these vital issues to protect public health and safety.

Thank you for your volunteer service to our communities.