

From: [Laura McKinney](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Alcoa Supports Cherry Point
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 11:20:06 AM

Dear Whatcom Planning Commission,

I am writing today to express my concerns about the Whatcom County Council Cherry Point amendments. While you have made some thoughtful recommendations for improving these policy changes, there remain significant areas of concern that have gone unaddressed by the Commission that will severely limit or effectively prohibit upgrades, operational improvements at Cherry Point (including renewable fuels projects).

As you are aware, the County Council's Cherry Point amendments are the most significant land-use policy changes to be proposed in Whatcom County in decades. The Planning Commission and the County Council must show great caution and care when making such drastic changes but given the economic impact of COVID 19, you and members of the Council must be more diligent and cautious than ever.

Cherry Point is the foundation of Whatcom County's economy providing 10,000 living wage jobs. Cherry Point businesses in recent years have paid more than \$200 million annually in state and local taxes. Those taxes have resulted in \$10s of millions for local schools, public safety, and other vital county services.

We are all living with a great deal of uncertainty, much of it out of our control due to COVID 19.

Please, we need you to be more diligent than ever to create certainty for Whatcom County's citizens and their livelihoods.

Sincerely,

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