

**From:** [Jeff Ten Pas](#)  
**To:** [PDS Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Jobs In Whatcom County. Support Cherry Point.  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 11:20:12 AM

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Dear Whatcom Planning Commission,

Members of the Planning Commission, I am writing today to express my concerns about the Whatcom County Council Cherry Point amendments. Thank you for the additional time you have spent in dealing with this critical matter. While you have made some thoughtful recommendations for improving these policy changes, there remain significant areas of concern that have gone unaddressed by the Planning 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.

The business I own has supported Intalco for a number of decades. It is sad to see that site transfer to "idle" mode and so many employees lose their jobs. The loss of Intalco and the resulting impact of the current economic realities will no doubt cause a significant reduction in jobs and tax revenue coming from Cherry Point companies.

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's citizens and their livelihoods.

I have followed this process of the comp plan review for over four years now. I thank you for your time that you have invested. I am disappointed in the process and seeming one-sidedness from our elected officials ever since the last minute changes were introduced mid-summer 2016.

Sincerely,

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