

To: Whatcom County Council
July 9, 2019
Subject: Cherry Point Moratorium
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SUBMITTED BY: Clara Jean Carmean
COUNCIL MEETING
EXHIBIT: B COMMITTEE

Once again, I would like to support this moratorium on the shipment of unrefined fossil fuels from Cherry Point.

I have only two points to make tonight:

1. Climate change is real, and much of it is caused by carbon dioxide emissions.
2. Protecting/developing a **variety** of family wage jobs is a necessity.

There is so much scientific data available on climate change, much of which I cited in earlier testimony to this council, that I will not go over that ground again.

Each of us has experiences of climate change daily. For example, if you walk Boulevard Park, you have seen the debris from waves breaking over the armored shoreline last winter and spring. This is only the beginning of sea level rise/storm surge,

In my own experience, when the salmon runs arrived, the hundreds of shimmering lights from fishing boats and nets between our rocky Chuckanut shoreline and Lummi Island lit up the night. They have been gone for several years now—a great loss of jobs and resources. The rocks on our shoreline no longer shelter starfish, limpets, mussels or, as my granddaughter pointed out several years ago, even great masses of barnacles. Back then when we put out a crab pot in the morning, we would have more than the limit by night; our problem was which ones to keep to meet our limit. Now, even after two days, we seldom catch even one keeper.

We have known for years that fossil fuels burned in Asia come back to us as warm, acidic water and air pollution. The ocean has done its job of absorbing carbon dioxide better than anyone had anticipated; and Chuckanut Bay and other places are suffering.

In the new codes, please increase standards for the health and safety of our community and the Salish Sea. Increased traffic of coal and oil trains and new or repurposed pipelines are not acceptable to me.

Also, we need to slow the rate of fossil fuel extraction so that we have some of this finite resource available for essentials such as hospital equipment in the future. These essentials do NOT include the internal combustion engine for cars, or the current wasteful design of planes

I realize that the refineries have been one of the few industrial family wage job generators in Whatcom County, but they also have been indirectly responsible for the destruction of the fishing and shell fish industry in the area. We still need refined oil until we transition to a clean economy, but we do NOT need bulk oil shipped to provide those jobs to Asia. A just transition for workers to new jobs, perhaps at Cherry Point, must be planned. This would include free training for new jobs, including at the Tech School and Community College. ?

My dream for Cherry Point? Things like agriculture products, clean energy manufacturing and shipment, modular home manufacture and shipment and, possibly, if the Lummi Nation is interested, a museum of Native American history, wood and fiber arts, and artifacts from excavations at Cherry Point— under Lummi leadership and control—similar to the one the Makahs developed near Neah Bay, would be appropriate for the development of Cherry Point.

Fossil fuel will not be the engine that runs America in 15 years, or, if it is, the world as we know it will be gone.