

I am Ron Colson. I live in the Geneva neighborhood of Whatcom County. I am speaking on behalf of the Mt. Baker Group of the Sierra Club.

I am asking you to strengthen the June 18th draft of proposed code amendments. While you are finishing the crafting of these important documents, please consider the following requests:

Prohibit all new or expanded transshipment operations for all fossil fuels.

Prohibit all new or expanded piers, docks or wharfs in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve.

All upgrades to, or changes-of-use for existing facilities must be conditional pending the completion of a thorough Environmental Impact Statement.

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 COMMITTEE
EXHIBIT: E

That Environmental Impact Statement must consider all of the impacts to the global environment, from extraction to combustion, from the oil well to the tailpipe. All of it!

The residents of Whatcom County are not blind. We see that the refineries have been expanding using a piecemeal strategy to game the permitting process so that they can avoid public scrutiny. That must stop!

The proposed code amendments must make all changes and expansions subject to public environmental scrutiny long before any permit is issued.

Finally, the risk of a catastrophic event is extremely high in the refinery business. Only three weeks ago a fire at a Philadelphia refinery set off a series of powerful explosions. Fortunately, pollution from the spilled petroleum products remained within the industrial area. But those spills have created a nightmare cleanup scenario with a

huge risk of groundwater pollution. While the fires were raging, the downwind air pollution must have been deadly!

The cost to Whatcom County to clean up Cherry Point after just such a disaster could very quickly exceed our ability to pay. I'm sure that both BP and Phillips 66 will give us a wink-and-a-promise that they will foot the bill when it happens. Don't trust them! Make them post a cleanup bond, one that isn't underwritten by them! Do you remember the coal companies that recently declared bankruptcy? They "self-bonded" and now the public is left with superfund-level cleanup costs.

In conclusion, thank you for your tireless dedication to the citizens of Whatcom County. This is your best opportunity to protect all of us from environmental catastrophes caused by soulless fossil fuel companies whose only motivation is profit at any cost.