

From: [Matthew Hepner](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Cc: [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#); [Kathy Kershner](#); [Ben Elenbaas](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#)
Subject: Cherry point planning commission letter
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:26:27 PM
Attachments: [CEWW_cherrypoint_doc.docx](#)

August 11, 2020

Whatcom Planning Commission
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

Whatcom Planning Commission:

As the Executive Director of the Certified Electrical Workers of Washington - IBEW I represent 12,000 men and women many who work at Cherry Point. Those members depend on the good family wage jobs that Cherry Point companies provide. The changes the Whatcom County Council has proposed for Cherry Point could put those jobs in jeopardy. However, I would also like to thank the Planning Commission for the many constructive recommendation the Commission has made, but there still some outstanding issues that need to be reviewed. I urge the Planning Commission to adopt the joint code amendments submitted by industry and NGO's that are included in your Planning Commission packet for the August 13th public hearing.

Cherry Point companies are good corporate citizens that are diligently operating both safely and in an environmentally responsible manner. Cherry Point companies protect the environment by diligently adhering to existing strict federal, state and local regulations.

When considering its proposed changes for Cherry Point the Planning Commission and County Council must use great care as we go through the process of reviewing these proposed regulatory changes. As we all struggle with the recession caused by COVID 19 our policy makers must be very careful when increasing regulations on job creators.

In recent years there have been more than 2,100 family wage jobs connected to Cherry Point that have an average salary of \$114,000 per year. This is significantly above the county average. Additionally, the activity in this well-established industrial zone alone has provided roughly \$200 million in annual tax revenues that fund schools, public safety and essential county services for our most vulnerable.

Due to the pandemic, our economy is fragile, and Cherry Point is the economic foundation for Whatcom County. It is critical that we all work together to protect and encourage the jobs and tax revenue generated from Cherry Point companies. It is important that we continue to work together to protect the jobs at Cherry Point.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Hepner
Executive Director
Certified Electrical Workers of Washington-IBEW
253-243-5408



CERTIFIED ELECTRICAL WORKERS OF WASHINGTON

Representing **Electrical Workers** Statewide

MATTHEW HEPNER

Executive Director

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