

From: [Thelma Follett](#)  
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)  
Subject: Attn: Becky Boxx - Comment concerning Comprehensive Plan Update and UGA review  
Date: Monday, August 31, 2015 7:36:21 PM

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Thelma Follett  
2605 Lakeridge Lane  
Bellingham, WA 98226-4339

August 31, 2015

Whatcom County Planning Commission  
Attn: Becky Boxx  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Re: Northwest Jobs Alliance August 12, 2015 comment concerning the Cherry Point UGA

Dear Whatcom County Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my concern that the August 12, 2015 letter sent to the Whatcom County Planning Commission by Brad Owens, President, and John Huntley, Chair of the Northwest Jobs Alliance Association, a letter which makes irresponsible claims, may have undue bearing on the Cherry Point UGA decision making.

I am very much offended by the racist overtones and inflammatory language contained in the letter; the writers' statement that the Lummi "have plans to take over" lands in the Cherry Point region is a case in point. As proof of Lummi plans to "take over" Cherry Point, the authors submitted a document which states rather innocuously that the Lummi nation might "explore property acquisition" in the area (letter to Clifford Cultee from Tom Ehrlichman, "Center for Salish Community Strategies," February 7, 2012:6).

How is the Lummi strategy for the *possible* acquisition of land in the Cherry Point area any different from Pacific International Terminals *actual* property acquisition parcel by parcel over the years to make way for the Gateway Pacific Terminal project? Are the authors of the GPT letter so silly as to imply that the "middle class" (as they style them) citizens of Whatcom County should circle their wagons in the old-fashioned, European colonial way, in order to fend off a Lummi "take over?"

Reference is made numerous times to "working" families which the Lummi supposedly oppose; and this opposition, it is said works to the Lummi's own

detriment as they would be the “beneficiaries” of these “working” families if they were just left alone to fulfill their middle class needs. I certainly hope that Owens and Huntley do not mean to somehow imply that the Lummi can only survive as “beneficiaries” of someone else’s labor.

Additionally, Owens and Huntley credit non-Lummi property owners and officials with “decades of sound land use planning” as opposed to the “impractical” and “misguided” suggestions of the Lummi, as if the Lummi, the original inhabitants of this region, have not already been practicing centuries of “sound land use planning.”

Currently Lummi sound land use planning for the Cherry Point area finds that “what was adequate thirty years ago” is “inadequate now” and recommends responsible planning which reflects “contemporary knowledge, best sustainable practices, best available science, and the public’s contemporary low-carbon vision for use of that area” (July 21, 2015 letter to Mark Personius from Kirk Vinish: 1, 3 and 4).

Lummi sound use planning for the Cherry Point area finds, contrary to the claims of Owens and Huntley, that it is “not *essential* for the economy to promote high-impact, heavy industry with a large carbon footprint in the Cherry Point UGA” and recommends instead that we begin to “steer our economy in the direction of sustainable, green industry that produces *high levels of jobs* with less carbon footprint.”

The Northwest Jobs Alliance mission, proclaimed on their letter head, is to “promote the growth of family wage jobs in the context of *sound environmental practice*.” If Northwest Jobs Alliance is serious about sound environmental practice and is not just providing yet another example of Einstein’s famous definition of insanity, “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results;” then, that organization should seek counsel and further educational opportunities concerning environmental sustainability from the Lummi Nation Planning Department.

Sincerely,

Thelma Follett

Copies to:

Whatcom County Council

Whatcom County Executive

Peter Goldmark

Governor Inslee