

## Linda Ann Kuller

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**From:** joe symons <joesymons@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 12, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** Rick Hughes; Jamie Stephens; Bill Watson; Comp Plan Update  
**Cc:** fred klein; Charlie Carver; Jared Lovejoy; Stephanie Buffum; Maile Johnson  
**Subject:** Re: Orcas Issues Guest Opinion and commentaries

Please consider this submission, along with the web link, as part of the comp plan update record.

On Mar 12, 2017, at 1:23 PM, Fred Klein <[fklein@orcasonline.com](mailto:fklein@orcasonline.com)> wrote:

There's an interesting comment thread following Joe Symons' article in Orcas Issues...

<http://orcasisues.com/guest-opinion-orcas-nantucket-never-say-never/#comment-335313>

Best,

Fred

What I conclude from these comment exchanges regarding the orcas issues guest opinion is:

1 person who does not live here, own property here, or have any substantive knowledge of Orcas is fixated on being right, based on web-accessible data, while several who live here are commenting on the substance of the topic.

The conversation has turned personal and unprofessional by this one person; there are no comments supporting his point of view.

The data and issue I referred to was for the entire county, not just Orcas, so right from the getgo this one person's view derailed the conversation.

Full time resident population is not the correct metric any more, as the essentially (or likely soon to be) almost full time non-resident visitor population must be factored in, as these folks represent the same, or even greater, impact per person than a full time resident does (hey! we're on vacation! party time!) Hard data from Doe Bay Water some years ago has shown that part timers in the summer can use almost an entire year's allocation of water in just a few weeks. (source: Ted Wixom, General Manager, DBWUA) The county's infrastructure (and all other factors related to the CP) must be based on human impact, not on whether the human is a visitor or a full time resident.

Technological changes such as driverless cars may entirely change the commuter/visitor/resident transportation profile via what is argued as a potential bottleneck regarding ferry service. Walkons could and likely will have a huge impact on the county given very low cost vehicle options on the Island's side of the ferries. Think, with a bit of technological vision, Bainbridge Island marries Uber and has a child called SJC.

Visitors aside, there is the very real potential for substantial in-migration of climate and wealth refugees for whom transportation and housing costs are not barriers.

No one over 15 reading this can ignore the reality that most projections during the past several decades re human impact on the environment, by the best available science at the time, have consistently underestimated the actual impact. To proceed under presumptions like “It can’t happen here” or “technology will save us” or “scientists are idiots” or “humans aren’t that stupid” is to ignore the clear evidence, manifested in books like “Collapse” (Jared Diamond) or “The Collapse of Complex Societies” (Joseph Tainter) or “The Watchman’s Rattle” (Rebecca Costa), that we are on or past critical tipping points and that societies for centuries have grown and died, i.e., our situation today has many precedents and none has demonstrated anywhere near the durability of, say, cockroaches. Failing to learn from history pretty much dooms us to repeat it, as there has been no substantive increase in wisdom and self/cultural restraint in the last few millennia. I would happily accept credible evidence to the contrary.

What is on the table, in San Juan County today, is an opportunity to seriously and thoughtfully break the enchantment of “growth has no negative consequences (or if there are few, they are manageable)” and have truly strategic and end-game conversations about sustainable and financially responsible carrying capacity oriented balancing of humans and nature symbiotically working in long term evolutionary harmony.

Joe Symons

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carpe diem