

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Cindy Wolf  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 11:54 AM  
**To:** Ingrid Gabriel  
**Subject:** Fwd: My message tomorrow: VR Moratorium

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**From:** Jayson Schmidt <jayson@peterschmidtconstruction.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 11:23:30 AM  
**To:** Cindy Wolf <cindyw@sanjuanco.com>  
**Subject:** My message tomorrow: VR Moratorium

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Dear Cindy,

Tomorrow I will participate during the public comment opportunity and I want to share my overall message.

I graduated in 2004 on island, attended Gonzaga and received an engineering degree and began my corporate life. My wife graduated with a law degree. With our careers and a mountain of student debt the thought of moving to the island was farfetched due to a lack of career opportunities. We just got our debt below \$200,000 after 11 years of paying it off and we still have a long ways to go! However in 2016 it became clear our communities growth from the tourism industry creates enough opportunities for young professionals to return. So we made the move. This trend is growing and ability to graduate and return home as a young professional is an exciting opportunity that will pay major dividends to our economy while bringing local families back together. The Mortarium and threat to the growth of our industry places this opportunity at risk and has me wondering if I made a mistake moving my family back to the island too soon.

This month our local building association met with the San Juan County Economic Development Council and learned they are helping local businesses apply for PPP loans because they can't pay their bills due to the pandemic. They're desperately trying to help people keep the jobs they have. The EDC is also assisting companies work through the bankruptcy process because this pandemic has left them in financial ruin. Just last week I learned a local commercial building lost 100% of their commercial tenants downtown. Because of the eviction ban commercial and residential landlords aren't getting rent payments. Beloved restaurants all over town are shutting their doors that I loved to eat at much of my life. **We are in an economic crisis!** Vacation rentals drive local business right now and can continue to do so. Why would you deprive our community of any legal form of economic relief at a time of a financial crisis brought on during this pandemic? Do the threats of tourism, vacation rentals and our industry outweigh the current financial crisis we are in?

Covid has forced so many expectations to be set aside and everyone should recognize that our economic stability now is more important than the "perceived" threats of vacation rentals and tourism. You are gambling with individual careers to go on a fact finding mission. Let the existing Vacation Rental regulation from 2018 do its job. We can still follow Public participation and legislative processes without the moratorium in place and provide economic relief for our hurting community.

You said this is just a "Pause" when you approved the moratorium to provide reassurance to those who don't support the moratorium. A pause suggests when you hit play everything will go back to normal. If you don't repeal this moratorium soon our local businesses will lose opportunities and customers will invest somewhere else. Should this

happen your actions would not be seen as a pause, it becomes a stop with damages to our community. Please, reassure us once again this is only a pause and repeal the moratorium before long term damages start to take effect in our community. Repeal the moratorium to provide economic relief to a community in economic crisis. Repeal the moratorium to support tourism, our most important resource for growth and development of our San Juan County Community.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Jayson Schmidt

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