

Sophia Cassam

From: michelle seidelman <stagedtosellweb@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 1:16 PM
To: San Juan County Council
Subject: Vacation rentals

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Dear Commissioners,

For the last 20 years my husband Miguel and I have been traveling to The San Juan islands. We consider the islands to be our Heaven on earth. We were married at Lime Kiln and we have worked tirelessly for the health of the Salish Sea & Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Ten years ago we began our search for a property that we could afford to buy. We needed to find a property with an HOA that would allow us to vacation rent until we can retire to the island. This was the ONLY way we could afford to purchase a house. We closed escrow on our dream, December 10, 2020. My husband and I began work that day to bring it up to code for getting a Vacation Rental Permit. Four weeks later our dreams AND our financial future were ruined, when a friend sent me the notice of the Vacation Rental Moratorium.

Now, we have a home that we mostly likely will not be able to keep because of this Moratorium. We have invested tens of thousands of dollars in state and local taxes which we will NOT be able to recover if we have to sell it right now, not to mention real estate commissions and all the money to bring the home up to code for a vacation rental permit.

Miguel and I are extremely hurt and take offense to being treated as if we are not part of this island. A long term rental would not even begin to help with our mortgage/carrying cost and even if it did we would not be able to use our home to enjoy when we are able too.

If seems very elitist to us that if you can't afford to live here full time or leave your house vacant 70% of the time, then you just can't own property here at all.

How is it legal to arbitrarily vote for a moratorium without having community hearings and due process? We are facing a financial ruin because of this arbitrary decision and we ask that you allow people who purchased homes before the moratorium in an area that allows vacation rentals to apply for permits.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and we are looking for a fair and reasonable outcome to those of us who walked unknowingly into this mess.

Thank you,

Michelle and Miguel