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From: erika@crescentidesign.com
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 3:43 PM
To: San Juan County Council; Jamie Stephens; Christine Minney; Cindy Wolf; Comp Plan Update
Subject: Vacation Rentals

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Dear SJC Council Members,

I was astounded to hear of the Council's recommendation that Lopez Island increase vacation rentals by 34% when it is very clear that already there is not enough permanent rental housing to support our local markets, restaurants, healthcare, school, churches, and EMS infrastructure. In addition, the pressure on our delicate fresh water reserves and the loss of farmland for housing pushes our community further from the ability to become self-supporting and sustainable even as the need for such ability increases.

Furthermore, an increasing number of the rental properties are not owned by residents, so the income from those properties is not even contributing to the local economy, and certainly not to the community we all love so much.

More tourism/vacation rentals is not a solution to any woes these islands might have. Indeed, it makes it more difficult for full-time residents to continue to live here. Is that what we want for our community?

We need to focus on the maintenance and improvement of life for those who already live here.

Please do not increase the percentage of Vacation Rentals on Lopez (or any of the other islands for that matter—no doubt the same issues arise for all our islands), and consider requiring that those who own vacation rentals must be residents, or at the very least part-time residents.

Thank you,

Erika Davis