

Adam Zack

From: Phyllis Potter <islehavenbooks@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Please no increase in Vacation Rentals on Lopez

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Below is a copy of an email sent earlier to both Jamie Stephens and the San Juan County Council.

Good morning, Jamie --

I, like so many long time residents on Lopez (56 part time years, 36 full time), am increasingly dismayed by the havoc that has been wrought by the proliferation of vacation rentals here. What started as something some locals did to supplement income has gotten far out of hand with off islanders buying up the limited properties for sale with the express purpose of making them high priced vacation rentals.

I need not further enumerate all the burdens on our local infrastructure resulting from this influx of short term visitors -- they are myriad and well known -- but I will say, from personal experience, that the inability of possible new hires in various businesses, organizations, health providers and our school to find permanent housing is doing great harm in all those areas. Grace Episcopal Church, where I am the Parish Administrator, lost our previous vicar and cannot hire a replacement precisely because there is no housing to be found. No one's vacation matters more than having EMTs, teachers, pastors for our churches, and workers for our businesses.

Please do not increase the number of vacation rentals allowed on Lopez. Instead, consider improving existing regulations and imposing higher tariffs to help fund improvement of local infrastructure (especially water sources), require owners to be at least part-time residents (which might actually reduce the total number of vacation rentals), and focus your attention on attempting to maintain a certain quality of life for the full time residents who would prefer not to be forced off of our island as it becomes increasingly unrecognizable.

Thank you.

Phyllis M Potter
Lopez resident

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