

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Cynthia Post <postcindyann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 6:46 PM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Subject:** Vacation rentals

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Dear San Juan County Council,

Last Fall my son (who grew up on Lopez) was searching for a 3- 6 month Lopez rental. We found only two: a basement apartment (heating \$ not included) priced at a higher rate than his LA inner-city unit. The second possibility was a neighbor's aging guest cabin. Not only are rentals in short supply, they are also unaffordable. Factor in the Airbnb conversions (many of them mainland owners) and you are left with nothing for those who live and work here,

This scene played out in rural areas across the country in 2020 as city-dwellers fled Covid, putting a strain on local infrastructure and resources. That is especially true in the islands but with an added stressor - the ferry system. WSF, already suffering from a lack of funding for maintenance and staffing, is currently overbooked and still operating on a winter schedule that cannot accommodate the year-round residents who rely on it for appointments and travel reservations.among other things. The increase in vacation rentals has further exacerbated an untenable situation.

**Until these issues can be addressed, please do not increase the percentage of vacation rentals.**

For more ideas on how other rural communities have searched for solutions to their housing issues, consider reading the following article on Moab,Utah in the Salt Lake Tribune (go to youtube if you can't access through the paper's website):

**Moab locals say tourists, newcomers are running them out of their own community**

**The community's dearth of affordable housing is hitting the population's workforce hard.**

[https://www.sltrib.com/news/politics/2021/07/19/whats-driving-moabs/?utm\\_source=Salt+Lake+Tribune&utm\\_campaign=e67231f5bc-topstories071921&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_dc2415ff28-e67231f5bc-44977442](https://www.sltrib.com/news/politics/2021/07/19/whats-driving-moabs/?utm_source=Salt+Lake+Tribune&utm_campaign=e67231f5bc-topstories071921&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dc2415ff28-e67231f5bc-44977442)

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Lopez Island