

Adam Zack

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To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Vacation Rentals

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Dear Planning Commission Members:

I am a 13 year full time resident of Lopez Island. In that time, I have watched our tourist population grow to the point where I cannot get on a Lopez-only ferry during the week without waiting in line for hours. As you are all aware, the affordable housing issue has gotten worse - businesses cannot find workers because of the shortage of housing for them. And our island archipelago has gotten ever closer to becoming a community dominated by the wealthy like Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

We do not need more vacation rentals. We need to find solutions to these problems first. We need to incentivize what we want - a community where the entire spectrum is represented and welcome: from singles to families, working people to retirees. And discourage what we don't want - transient vacation rentals that disrupt the fabric of neighborhoods, thoughtlessly drain our precious, limited resources like water, and increase rents and housing prices that lead to gentrification.

In your deliberations on this controversial subject, please consider a much lower cap than 34% on Lopez VRs as well as requiring that vacation rentals in our county only be run by full time residents who live on the property. This kind of regulation would start to address the negative impacts that vacation rentals continue to have on our island communities.

I am sending a similar letter to the County Council as well.

Thanks for your attention to this critical matter!

Ande Finley
Lopez Island