

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Lopez Island Rentals

Importance: High

Public comment below.

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From: Lois Wardell <loisw@WardellArchitects.com>
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Christine Minney <christinem@sanjuanaco.com>; Cindy Wolf <cindyw@sanjuanaco.com>; jamies@sanjuanaco.c
Cc: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanaco.com>
Subject: Lopez Island Rentals
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Dear Commissioners

We understand that there is consideration to increase vacation rentals on Lopez Island by 34%. To do this will only exacerbate a situation which has already become a crisis, the need for affordable housing for those who live and work here.

As an example, the Fire District had to purchase a house so the new Fire Chief had a place to live. We understand that the Lopez School District superintendent has to commute. One of the local churches cannot retain a permanent vicar until there is a guarantee he/she can find year-round housing. Local restaurants and businesses cannot hire staff because there is no place for them to rent.

In addition, vacation rentals not only take away from existing housing stock, they are often owned by people who not only don't live here on a regular basis, some don't have any intention of living here, only seeing this as an investment.

Please reconsider and ensure that the life we all love is preserved and the people who are needed here, from our teachers to our firefighters, grocery store employees and medical workers, can afford to continue to live here.

Sincerely
Lois and Bob Wardell
Lopez Island

Cc: San Juan County Planning Commission