

Adam Zack

From: Sandy Bishop <turtle@rockisland.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:10 AM
To: complancomments@sanjuanico.com; Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation Rentals

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council and Planning Commission,

Good local policy promotes good neighborly relationships among locals.

I support Home Stays and have always appreciated being able to stay with local folks when I travel. I learn so much more about the place. My friends on Lopez who host Home Stays rely on the income in order to stay in their homes and they rely on the visitors to help balance their social needs as they age and find themselves increasingly isolated.

I support vacation rentals caps set at current levels. It's interesting this year to see the swift changes playing out. Longer than usual ferry waits. Increased visitors and increased demands but very few local people available to work. Businesses closing their doors periodically during the week because they simply can't keep up. A greater number of people making the islands their full time residence, requiring services of the dump, grocery stores, small businesses, lumber yard etc. and yet very few people moving to the islands to work in those positions.

The majority of people living in the islands make their income from other than working here and those who work here often make lower wages. The extreme lack of available affordable housing is growing worse. We do not have a shortage of housing but we do have a shortage of available homes that working folks can afford.

Let's come together and bring balance to our island communities.

For consideration:

Cap the vacation rentals at current rates.

Enforce the rules as set forth by the county.

Create incentives for those who offer long term rentals.

Require all Home Stays and vacation rentals to have a full time occupant on the property.

Thank you all for wrestling with this complex issue. Sending appreciation for your efforts.

Sincerely, Sandy Bishop
Lopez Island WA
360.468.3654