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From: Elizabeth Landrum <ezlandrum@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: vacation rental caps on Lopez

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Dear Planning Commissioners and County Council Members,

As a 23-year property owner on Lopez and as one who very much appreciates the lifestyle my wife and I have been able to enjoy here as full-time residents, I implore you to carefully consider the future of our precious island community in the face of increasing tourism. We have seen changes that make us want to remain at home, avoiding the village and any off-island travel, during the summer months. We are already seriously impacted by increased traffic (car and bicycle), ferry lines and wait times, crowds in our village, parks and trails, stressed business owners, and the general atmosphere of a vacation destination.

Meanwhile, we are seeing more young families and people of modest incomes unable to find housing (to rent or purchase) and more businesses unable to find workers, while wealthier people are buying up properties (many for second homes), and housing prices climb. We do not want to see this island go the way of some other resort communities, and we are dangerously close.

While I recognize that there are many factors that cannot be controlled, and I understand that the 2018 regulations might help neighborhoods impacted by some vacation rental issues, one thing that can be controlled is a cap on the number of vacation rental permits. We do not need more vacationers here to support our economy. We need a sustainable community of diverse incomes. We need to support businesses and services that must find and hire reliable workers. We need more affordable housing. We need to preserve the positive aspects of a community that cares for each other and the beauty of our island. When more vacation rentals are allowed, more of what we treasure will be lost and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to turn back.

Sincerely,

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