

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 11:44 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Vacation Rental Caps

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: Peter Bohr <peterbohr1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 11:10 AM
To: San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>; Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Vacation Rental Caps

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August 13, 2021

To: San Juan County Planning Commission and San Juan County Council
Re: Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of Vacation Rental Permits

We write in support of the letter [<http://doebay.net/VR/PCCCaugletter.pdf>] sent to you on 11 August, 2021 from David Turnoy and others regarding the establishment of caps on Vacation Rental Permits [VRPs] in San Juan County [SJC].

We have lived in the Orcas Highlands for 13 years. Within the past five years, five of our immediate neighbors have obtained VRPs. Three more are currently pending, or have just received VRPs. These numbers are based upon the correspondence we've received from Permit Resources, an outfit hired by owners to notify immediate neighbors of VRP applications according to county regulation. There are, of course, additional VRPs in our Orcas Highlands Homeowners' Association who are not our immediate neighbors.

About half of these VRP properties are active rentals. The rest of the permits have been obtained by the owners because they believe they will add value to their properties upon the sale of their properties. This not only means a potential increase in the number of active rentals in our neighborhood, but the VPRs increase the price of these homes, placing even more of them out of reach of moderate-income home buyers and exacerbating the island's severe home shortage.

The number of current rentals, as well as the potential rentals, are a threat to the Orcas Highlands community. Though many of the vacation renters are generally respectful, they all add to the traffic on the Highlands roads, which we homeowners -- not the county -- pay to maintain. Many of the renters ignore our speed limits. Some trespass on neighboring properties. And few of the owners with VRPs, who often live off-island, participate in Highland's activities -- such things as Firewise Community clean-ups, noxious weed removal or even HOA meetings.

We urge you to set appropriate caps to reduce the negative impacts of VRPs. Furthermore, we urge you to make current and future VRPs applicable only to current owners and to void them upon resale of the properties.

Respectfully,
Peter Bohr
Duffy King
654 Discovery Way
Eastsound, WA 98245