

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Lynda Guernsey  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Caps on VR permits

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Janice Wiemeyer <jaw77orcas@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 12:31 PM  
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>  
Subject: Caps on VR permits

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Date: August 13, 2021  
From: Janice and Alan Wiemeyer, Orcas Island  
To: San Juan County Planning Commission

RE: Establishing fixed permanent caps on total number of Vacation Rental Permits

We are writing to support the letter sent to you on August 11, 2021 from David Turnoy and others regarding establishing caps on Vacation Rental Permits in San Juan County.

We have lived on Orcas Island for 25 years. We moved here to enjoy the quiet, tranquil, rural, community-minded nature of Orcas. We are distressed to see the crowds that severely limit our access and enjoyment of our hiking trails and places of business, including restaurants and food markets. We are concerned about the carrying capacity of the island to provide sufficient water, waster water treatment, transportation safety as well as the negative impacts created by transient populations on noise levels, road and infrastructure impacts, and acceptable levels of commerce in activity centers. We are concerned about the loss of community in neighborhoods and activity centers. As written by a similarly-effected individual in Hawaii, we feel like second class citizens in our home community, being subservient to the tourist industry.

We do not expect that things will be unchanged from when we first moved here, but that there be a reasonable and livable balance between residents who call Orcas “home” and tourists who come here to enjoy what we have to offer.

Please pay great attention to setting appropriate caps that reduce the current negative impact of VRs. Ensure that these caps are permanent and that they are re-evaluated every few years to ensure that they are sufficiently restrictive to prevent the challenges that we have been facing for the past several years. Such re-evaluation should be done with the intention of lowering caps as needed to minimize if not eliminate the negative impact of over-tourism.