

Adam Zack

From: Eleanor Hoague <echoague@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 6:59 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments; San Juan County Council
Subject: Eleanor Hoague on The Importance of a Vacation Rental Cap

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Dear County Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing to support the letter 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). Many other responsible cities and counties in the United States and around the world have seen the negative impact of overtourism, and have set caps on the number of permitted vacation rentals

I have lived on Orcas Island for twenty-two years. My neighbors rent out their home to strangers full-time, and intend to do so for the foreseeable future. It is noisy, our private road is being destroyed, and we rarely see the owners, people who we used to see on a regular basis, but are bent on making money from their enterprise. I moved here to enjoy the quiet, tranquil, rural, community-minded nature of Orcas. Help keep it that way by ensuring a cap on VRPs.

I am distressed to see the crowds in Eastsound and other island places where we used to be able to visit mobs of tourists. Further, I am concerned about the carrying capacity of the islands to provide sufficient water, wastewater 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.

I am **particularly** concerned about the loss of community in my neighborhood and in the activity areas on Orcas. Please pay great attention to setting appropriate caps that reduce the current negative impact of VRPs. Ensure that the data used to calculate caps is the most current and most accurate available; caps should be set no greater than the currently existing active and compliant VRPs for each major island. Also 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 overtourism.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elly Hoague
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