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From: Keith Keyser <kthkeyser@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey; San Juan County Council; Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: vacation rentals

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Hi,

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding vacation rentals here in San Juan County. As a 15 year resident of San Juan Island living on a private road, I've seen increased speeding and reckless driving in our neighborhood since vacation rentals started replacing long-time residents who had passed away. The new "neighbors" have purchased homes on the waterfront for the sole purpose of making a handsome return renting to who knows who on a short rotating basis. They are essentially non residents renting to non residents, neither group accountable to the local community.

There is something sinister about buying a house in a tight housing market and using that shortage to leverage profit from the scenery and laid back nature of the place. Our neighborhoods are being set upon by visitors who are ignorant of island culture and are too loud, too fast and too close. Although I realize that day trippers can also have a negative impact on the community, (eg. failing to grant right of way to cyclists) the significant difference is that they haven't set up camp in our community the way VRs do. And most importantly each VR displaces a contributing member of our community who seeks affordable housing. If we are to continue to be a cohesive community that leans on one another all the seasons of the islands, we must put a stop to speculative property use that adversely impacts local housing and island neighborhood identity.

Please establish caps on VRP now before we lose the vestige of the tranquility we found here in 2006.

Keith Keyser
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