

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Vacation rental cap

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From: Andrea Cohen <orcasantrea@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 1:28 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Vacation rental cap

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To: The San Juan County Planning Commission

From: Andrea Cohen, 1702 North Beach Road, Eastsound, WA 98245

This is to state my strong support for a cap on the number of vacation rentals in the county, particularly on Orcas Island, where I live.

Communities grow and change, but the trick is to do so with care and planning in order to preserve the unique environment, character and community spirit that each place possesses. This is especially true of island communities, where land and resources are finite; these are unique, fragile natural and human environments which deserve our protection. Tourism is an important part of our island economies, but overtourism is a particular threat to communities like the San Juans, where limited medical, police, sanitation, ferry, parking, water and long-term rental resources are easily overwhelmed. The number of vacation rentals is rising so quickly that it is changing and stressing the fabric of our communities.

Because the rapid rise of Vacation Rentals is an important and hotly contested issue (nationwide and worldwide), I've researched how other communities have responded. I am impressed by the efforts of Manzanita, Oregon, a small seaside town that stepped in early to create a strong plan for managing vacation rentals. Their ordinance created a cap on short term rentals (STR's) and established an oversight work group within the local government that meets to review and evaluate the ordinance and the STR situation in the community. The group includes representatives of the city council, planning commission, STR owners and full-time residents. Here is a link to their STR program:

<https://ci.manzanita.or.us/short-term-rental-oversight-work-group/>

Thank you for your consideration to this most important issue.

Andrea Cohen

