

## Adam Zack

---

**From:** R. McDonough <beckymcdonough@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of Vacation Rental Permits

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Rebecca and Thomas McDonough, Orcas Island

To: San Juan County Planning Commission and San Juan County Council

We write to support the letter [located at <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 in San Juan County.

We have lived on Orcas Island for seven years. We moved here to enjoy the quiet, tranquil, rural, community-minded nature of Orcas. While we understand the financial dependence our local merchants have with the tourism industry, the burden of that industry has become onerous. It's distressing to see the burgeoning crowds further burden the capacity of the islands to provide sufficient water, waste water treatment, and transportation safety. Additionally we have to deal with the negative impacts created by transient populations on noise levels, road and infrastructure impacts, and just plain increased garbage on the roads.

Of particular concern to us is the loss of community on Orcas, and the dire shortage of affordable housing for those who work for our local merchants. This is not hyperbole. Unlike the mainland, our island environs don't allow for housing expansion beyond our community borders. Where will those who try to make their living here, actually *live*? It's inexcusable for us not to take care of our community first, a community which cannot thrive when merchants can't staff their businesses, or even afford to live here themselves.

Please set appropriate caps to reduce the current negative impact of VRPs. Such caps must be firm, and re-evaluated periodically 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.

Please: take care of our local communities first. Appropriate tourism will follow.

Thank you for your attention,

Rebecca and Thomas McDonough