

Adam Zack

From: Toni Willis <willis.toni9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 9:29 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation rental " caps" proposal

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.

September 17, 2021

Members of the San Juan County Planning
Commission
P.O Box 947
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Re: Proposed Use of "caps" for regulation of Vacation Rentals
in San Juan County's

Dear Members of the Planning commission,

I urge you to vote no on the recommendation of an ordinance to the San Juan County Council implementing a county cap and island -by -island cap on the issuance of new permits for vacation rentals.

The proposed cap recommendation of 405 is not data driven and detrimental to many islanders and service workers. As a current housekeeper who barely survives on Airbnb cleaning wages and substitute teaching your " Cap" will potentially eliminate many of my jobs and many of the islanders who make a decent living cleaning. Air BnB clients are the ones who provided my rent money and food money, now this might be will be diminished.

Secondly, it has been my dream of mine and many others to come to this island and spend our remaining years living a different life. As you can imagine housecleaning is hard work, to survive you must work various hours and work 6 days a week. I have spent years trying to find a property on Orcas that allowed vacation rentals to supplement my income so I can afford to live here. Can you imagine I now finally own a property and could have my own home and do a part time vacation rental. Dream of dreams, I might not have to work 6 days a week cleaning for others but create the life that I intended when I moved to Orcas. I am not trying to get rich, I am trying to survive and provide a life for my children.

Now a select few have crushed my dream and my children's dream. I am not sure it is entirely equitable to enforce ideas of the higher income individuals on the island. I have not heard one struggling service worker encourage the " caps". Why, because they know that the people that are doing vacation rentals own homes that are at the very minimum in the mid- 550 k range. Do the math, that mortgage is just over two thousand dollars.

Ask Wendy Sunshine (Orcas Housing rental representative) when people post houses for rent at 2,200, service workers are horrified. Waitresses, grocery store clerks, and sale people do not make enough money to feed themselves and rent a home above 1800. Your cap will not and I repeat will not open up more one or two long term rentals. I can guarantee that. Why because we are in the same situation. The islanders who rent out short term rental are just trying to survive. You will meet many of these owners who clean their own vacation rental. Many women above the age of 50 are still cleaning their own vacation rentals just to save a little more money, as they have opened a vacation rental to retire a little early and. just exist on the island. Many of these women are vital members of our Orcas community. I find it odd that the number 405 has been chosen as the " cap" I see no data determining the resources on island only allow for 400 vacation rentals. I see no ecological data showing that 300 more vacation rentals will send the island into an ecological tailspin. Apparently we have enough water to support rentals that are on Eastsound, Olga and Doe bay water. So where

is the data? All I see is an graph showing that the number of available long term housing has decreased on Orcas and vacation rental increased. Humm. Still not convincing.

Please due your duty as a representative for all the people of san Juan county and vote **No** on " caps".

Best wishes,
Toni Wishes