

Sophia Cassam

From: Marc Cohen <smarcster@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 5:51 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Regulating Vacation Rentals

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Members of the San Juan County Planning Commission
PO Box 947
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Re: Proposed Use of “Caps” for Regulation of Vacation Rentals in San Juan County

Dear Members of the San Juan County Planning Commission,

ENOUGH!

I strongly support the San Juan County Planning Commission’s August 20 unanimous decision to recommend an ordinance to the San Juan County Council that implements both a county cap and island-by-island cap on the issuance of new permits for vacation rentals, such caps to be based on the number of active and compliant vacation permits.

ENOUGH!

Thankfully, the Staff Report to the Planning Commission recognizes that our county is currently suffering the detrimental impact of too many short-term vacation rentals and we cannot afford more.

ENOUGH!

To fail now to close the gates to new permits in the future would seriously exacerbate the acute stress we’ve already experienced on our islands’ natural resources, housing stock for working families, the community ambience of our residential neighborhoods and the adequacy of our island services.

We have had enough! San Juan County is choking under the weight of tourist traffic, which continues to spill into our once-tranquil residential neighborhoods.

The time is now to take decisive action.

I urge the Planning Commission to move forward on this proposed ordinance as generally described in the Staff Report. But without these proposed caps in place as soon as possible, the damage to our island community will be irreversible. The very nature of our beautiful islands and community is at stake.

Respectfully,

Marc Cohen
Orcas Island