

Sophia Cassam

From: Janet Knowles <janet@moeraki.com>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 9:00 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Fwd: URGENT: Lend Your Support for VR caps

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Our sentiments are included in the Vacation Rental Work Group.

It is not clear to us that any impact studies have been conducted to determine the number of short term rentals that could be permitted.

But it's clear by the change in our community, that the flood of tourists has been felt and not in a good way.

While on the one hand, the businesses were thrilled with the increased economics for them, it quickly became disastrous as they had no employees as they had no available housing.

It's imperative to go back to the drawing board and make some hard decisions for the path going forward.

Sincerely,

Janet Knowles/John Finlay

Orcas Island

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September 16, 2021

**Please add your name and send this letter to the Planning
Commission record at vrcomments@sanjuanco.com.**

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,

Orcas/Lopez/San Juan Island

"A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves."

-Wendell Berry



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