

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Ande Finley <andefinley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 4:20 PM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam; Jamie Stephens  
**Cc:** Bob Gerfy; Chom Greacen; Clarissa Mish; Henning Sehmsdorf; Kim Foley; Lafferty, Liz; Michael Moore; Ron Metcalf; Ryan Palmateer; Scott Finley; David Bill  
**Subject:** Amended Letter from Transition Lopez Island Addressing Commercial Composting  
**Attachments:** County Council Letter - 9\_14\_21 - Amended.pdf

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Sophia & Jamie - Attached please find a letter from Transition Lopez island amending our stance on commercial composting.

Thanks!  
Ande Finley  
for Transition Lopez Island Steering Committee



September 20, 2021

Via Email: [sophiac@sanjuanco.com](mailto:sophiac@sanjuanco.com)

San Juan County Council  
350 Court Street, No. 1  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Dear County Council Members:

On September 7th, we sent a letter addressing four issues on the County's 2021 Annual Docket ("Docket"). We would like to amend our comment on commercial composting on agricultural lands.

**Request 21-0001—Commercial composting on farmlands**

This request seeks to revise the County Code to authorize the installation of commercial composting facilities on designated Agricultural Resource Lands through a provisional use or conditional use permit. County staff recommend opening up farmlands to commercial composting after completion of the Comprehensive Plan update. In our previous letter, we stated that we disagreed with this recommendation, strongly supporting reserving use of these highly protected and valuable Agricultural Resource Lands solely for agriculture, continuing to allow non-commercial composting consistent with the agricultural activities on those lands.

As we originally stated, we wholeheartedly endorse increased opportunities for both commercial and noncommercial composting in the San Juans. In addition to serving people who don't have the ability to compost at home, commercial-scale composting could help our community transition away from single-use plastics and toward materials that can break down and provide a valuable natural soil amendment/fertilizer. However, we would like to make a distinction between industrial-scale composting as opposed to a small-scale commercial operation, such as Midnight's Farm here on Lopez Island. **Agricultural Resource Lands should not be used for industrial-scale enterprises, including large-scale composting.** The scale at which Midnight's Farm practices composting does not interfere with the intended protection of precious agricultural land.

Thank you again for your attention to these critical matters!

Transition Lopez Island Steering Committee

Ande Finley, Henning Sehmsdorf, Scott Finley, Ron Metcalf, Clarissa Szabados-Mish, Mike Moore, Bob Gerfy, Liz Lafferty, Chom Greacen, Kim Foley, and Ryan Palmateer