

Sophia Cassam

From: Tina Grace <tinagrace@cbbain.com>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: VR Permit Moratorium

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San Juan County Council & San Juan County Planning Commission

Dear Council Members,

I don't understand why we continue to talk about the subject of VR permits again without any actual data provided to support some residents claims that VR limit the number of housing options for residents.

I own a vacation rental on Orcas Island. I built the house for the sole purpose of spending more time on the island with my family. I travel to Orcas once a month to spend time in my own home. I paid my \$2300 permit and I collect the 10.1% sales and lodging tax, which eventually makes it way back to San Juan County.

Renting the house allows me to afford the home and still allows my family to spending time on island, which is important to me since I got married at Rosario Resort in 1998.

WHY do we need to extend the moratorium AGAIN? Is there going to be an official study about Affordable House in San Juan County during this 6-month time?

I think other things to consider are just how many new residents moved here during the Pandemic? How many new building permits were issued? There's currently a boutique hotel being build right in downtown Eastsound. Were they required by the county to provide affordable housing for residents?

Maybe a better suggestion would be to see how the 2018 regulations pan out or set a reasonable cap of 45 new permits per year for 3 years and commit to re-visiting this discussion in 2025. During the next 3 years, commission third-party studies that address specific issues and streamline the enforcement process, both for non-permitted rentals and for non-compliant permits. And then make all the collected data available to the public.

I believe all these non-ending discussions are putting a bigger strain on the community, which I don't think was your intent.

Sincerely,

Tina Grace
Orcas Island