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I do not believe that vacation rentals are the cause of the housing shortage. The San Juans have traditionally been a vacation spot. The economy of the Islands depends to a degree upon welcoming tourists. Vacation rentals provide access, and income, plus they contribute taxes that long term rentals do not. VRs provide guest housing for visitors, workers, and often relatives of residents. VRs in commercial zoning should not be further restricted. Support for VRs should be offered for their many contributions to the small businesses, cafes, and artists of the Islands, instead of constant criticism and blame for problems they did not create. A VR is not necessarily interchangeable as an affordable long term rental.

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