

Erika Shook

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Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 11:17 AM
To: Council Public Comment
Subject: Vacation Rental Moratorium

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Dear Councilmembers, my husband and I own property near Rosario Resort. We are “against” extending the vacation rental moratorium into 2023! The current six (6) month moratorium was established to allow for an assessment of the current short term vacation rental situation and create some meaningful reforms. A sufficient time has passed for those things to have transpired; it is now time to enact policy to support progressive reforms.

To extend the moratoriums until 2023 is an inappropriate delay tactic, which only benefits the existing short term vacation rental owners. It will drive even higher housing prices, not lower housing prices due to the laws of supply and demand. It will raise the costs of rentals for everyone (not just the tourists) and most devastatingly, it will bring less income to the islands business owners. Less tourism will result in less businesses being able to sustain their businesses during the winter months. The simple fact is, tourism dollars provide a valuable income to the Islands. Tourists, by coming to the islands, have the exposure to and can gain environmental and conservation awareness to the fascinating mammals and their ecosystem in located in the Salish Sea and the San Island Islands.

A couple of ideas to suggest are 1) State and County Tax incentives would be a better way to incentivize owners to pursue affordable housing and lower rents. 2) Creating areas where zoning prevents short term vacation rental is another.

Respectfully,

Sharon and Keith Brocker

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