

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** keara a <keara.a@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:54 PM  
**To:** Council Public Comment  
**Subject:** Vacation Rental Moratorium

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Hello,

I am writing in support of extending the vacation rental permit moratorium.

When I moved to Orcas, I wanted to buy a small condo for sale, but was told I couldn't live in it because it was *\*only\** for vacation rentals--I didn't know that was legal.

Since then I have been extremely lucky to find two places to rent--my current home bought by my landlord from someone weeks away from converting this into a vacation rental. If things continue as they are, I won't ever find another place to rent on Orcas.

We are in a five-alarm fire situation with housing. Like it or not, the people of this county are already using more water than our aquifers can provide. And of course so many businesses have to curtail their hours because workers can't afford to live here. That means less services for the people who do live here.

This is because there are far too many vacation rentals in San Juan County. The rich here are plenty rich; they don't need to buy more investment properties to survive. I believe 80% of existing vacation rentals should be turned into long-term rentals, or inhabited by their owners, but until then the very, very least we can do is put the brakes on handing out new vacation rental permits until we find a way to have a sustainable tourist economy.

Thanks for your time,  
Keara Axelrod  
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