

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** jbeeman haller-beeman.com <jbeeman@haller-beeman.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 3:23 PM  
**To:** Council Public Comment  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Doty  
**Subject:** Vacation Rental Mortorium

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Dear County Council,

We are in favor of extending, or making permanent, the vacation rental moratorium in the San Juan Islands. We feel this is important for the following reasons:

1. The vacation business is transitory in nature. While it could bring needed revenue and jobs to the islands, this economy is cyclical throughout the year and fickle across the years. If the economy struggles (or a pandemic breaks out) the first thing to be cut from a family's budget is vacations. That leaves tourism-based businesses high and dry, boom and bust. We don't need an even higher percentage of temporary economies here.
2. Vacation rentals are increasingly managed by companies/ individuals that don't live on the islands. These companies have less vested interest in maintaining the quality of life of the residents... perhaps no interest at all.
3. Vacation rentals displace affordable housing for local citizens
4. Vacationers generate a fair amount of waste - food waste, amusements, etc., - most likely a higher rate of waste generation than locals, since they can't consume everything that is purchased before leaving. This will compete with hauling space and dump time for locals. The locals will likely get stuck paying for "peak capacity" of our transfer stations.
5. The very nature of the islands will change when more short-termers are here. More traffic, more litter, more law enforcement needed, more impatience with "Island Time."

We understand the loss of personal income and individual freedoms that the moratorium represents. However, the "good of the commons" needs a lot of consideration in this case.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Beeman and Elizabeth Doty, Victorian Valley, Orcas