

## Erika Shook

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**From:** peter <petercarlson@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** Council Public Comment  
**Subject:** Vacation Rental Moratorium

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Dear San Juan County Council-

This is Peter Carlson writing, from Dolphin Bay Road on Orcas Island to express my strongest support for making the Emergency Moratorium on Vacation Rentals into permanent policy in San Juan County.

As a farmer, full-time resident, and small business owner on Orcas I have been dismayed watching the negative changes to our local economy unfold over the past decade as VRBO and AirBnB properties have come to dominate our rental market, forcing the public to come together to build and maintain affordable rental housing for our working neighbors so that they might have a place to live in this community at all. This amounts to a subsidized business environment, where public funds and public trust maintain a business environment that favors the ownership of vacation rental properties by providing housing to our working neighbors to replace the long-term rental properties that are no longer available to support and foster community.

Essentially the community is paying for and providing cover for an unregulated business environment in order to just make our county livable. It is unsustainable, and regulation is necessary to allow the residents here to have some say in how this ground shifting technology affects our lives and the local economy.

Thank you for your time and attention in this important matter, and please feel free to read my comment aloud at your meeting on the topic later today.

Peter Carlson  
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