

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Ingrid Gabriel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Vacation Rental Hearing

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**From:** Caroline & Horia <carolineandhoria@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 11:12 PM  
**To:** San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>  
**Subject:** Vacation Rental Hearing

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After many years of visiting and working on the island, our family had an opportunity to purchase a home by our favorite place-Moran State Park. We intend to allow short term rentals as a bridge until we can move full time to the island.

I'd like to highlight some of the benefits of this home being brought online as a vacation rental:

- **Living Wages:**
  - Housekeeping staff earn more than 2x what is offered at the local resort (\$28-\$30/hr vs. \$13).
  - Direct employment from the management of the property
  - Indirect support for local services (we're frequent fliers at Island Hardware and Morris Plumbing!)
- **Economic Development:**
  - We provide resources and encourage visitors to support the local businesses, farms, hamlets, and restaurants that make the community great.
  - Tourism is 25% of San Juan county's economy, with an additional 18% of jobs in retail-rentals like ours support that.
- **Responsible Processes:**
  - It took 6 months to obtain a vacation rental permit and we provided the county ample information to ensure the home could accommodate renters.
  - We will continue to work to keep our home in compliance, be good neighbors, and make sure we are meeting sustainability goals like water conservation.
- **Productive Use:**
  - This 3 bedroom, single family home, at a price point well below the area median, sat empty and on the market for nearly a year.
  - The sharing economy of vacation rentals continues the history of the island's vacation homes, while supporting the economy in a more robust way and using the existing housing stock more efficiently.

I do not want to discount the very real affordable housing issues we are facing as a region. There needs to be a multipronged approach to the issue-like the affordable housing fund tax we paid when we purchased the home and ways to avoid rampant speculation or development via zoning.

A thoughtful approach on how to incorporate responsible vacation rental ownership that supports the island should be the focus of discussions. Enforcement for those abusing the system would be welcomed.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts as homeowners and vacation renters in this place we love, Orcas Island.

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