

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Permanent caps on Vacation Rental Permits

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579 SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

-----Original Message-----

From: mccullough <mccullough.esther@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Permanent caps on Vacation Rental Permits

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Dear San Juan County Council and County Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the establishment of caps on Vacation Rental Permits in San Juan County. I have lived on Orcas Island with my family for forty years as a part time and permanent resident. We came here to enjoy a safe and peaceful environment in which we could raise our children and help them develop values of community and cooperation. They have had to opportunity enjoy the environment, participate in island activities and organization, and develop into productive individuals. We have also developed these values and used them to contribute to the community on Orcas and in other parts of Washington state.

Recently we have seen a market change in the island environment as we have been overrun by shorthorn renters who have replaced valuable members of our island community. The vacation renters contribute nothing to our community but damage our roads and trails, let dogs run loose on private property, make noise and speed on our roads. Our life has become more impersonal through the replacement of community with commercial activity. These changes have made much of our life style less possible.

Please consider the environment and the community, not just money, and limit the impact of this commercial activity on our way of life. If we must have vacation rentals, please consider requiring owners and renters contribute monetarily and participate personally to repair the damage caused in our community. Please also provide sufficient funds to effectively monitor vacation rentals, enforce regulations, and insure the role of VRPs in our community is appropriate.

Thank you,

James McCullough
Raccoon Point
Orcas Island

