

Adam Zack

From: Marc Cohen <smarcster@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 6:00 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation Rental Permits

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Date: August 16, 2021

From: Marc Cohen, Orcas Island

To: San Juan County Planning Commission and San Juan County Council

Re: Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of Vacation Rental Permits

I write to support the letter (located at <http://doebay.net/VR/PCCCaugletter.pdf>) sent to you on 11 August 2021 from David Turnoy and others regarding the establishment of caps on Vacation Rental Permits (VRPs) in San Juan County (SJC).

I have lived on Orcas for 22 years. I moved here to enjoy the quiet, tranquil, rural, community-minded nature of Orcas. I am distressed to see the crowds. I am concerned about the carrying capacity of the islands to provide sufficient water, waste-water treatment, and transportation safety. I am also concerned about the negative impacts created by transient populations on noise levels, road and infrastructure impacts, and acceptable

levels of commerce in activity centers. I am particularly concerned about the loss of community in my neighborhood and in the activity areas on Orcas.

Please pay great attention to setting appropriate caps that reduce the current negative impact of VRPs. Ensure that the data used to calculate caps is the most current and most accurate available; caps should be set to be no greater than the currently existing active and compliant VRPs for each major island. Also ensure that these caps are permanent and that they are re-evaluated every few years to ensure that they are sufficiently restrictive to prevent the challenges that we have been facing for the past several years. Such re-evaluation should be done with the intention of lowering caps as needed to minimize if not eliminate the negative impact of over-tourism.