

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:52 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of 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

From: Ben Bama <bit_brace@rockisland.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 7:30 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>; San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Re: Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of Vacation Rental Permits

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Date: 8/17/2021
From: Ben Bama, SJI
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

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment on this important issue. I write to support the letter 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 San Juan Island for 7 years. I moved here to enjoy the quiet, tranquil, rural, community-minded nature of the islands. I am distressed to see the crowds. I am concerned about carrying capacity of the islands to provide sufficient water, waste water treatment, transportation safety as well as 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 San Juan Island.

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 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.

Sincerely,
Ben