

Sophia Cassam

From: Megan K <megkorb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Cc: Megan Korb
Subject: VR Comment

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We ask that the county restore our rights and discontinue the moratorium based on but not limited to the following:

Endless data has shown that VRs do not destroy communities nor are they the reason for a lack of low income housing. If viable efforts to collect accurate data were made I feel strongly that the council would discover that VRs do not harm our community. Personally, our home allows myself, my husband and several others we know to fulfill our/their dream(s) that we have worked hard to achieve to live parttime and eventually move and retire to the island. Without the partial rental of our home, we would never have been able to own our property and would cause several foreclosures and the loss of homes that have been in families for generations.

The radical and unreasonable exploitation of councils power is self-serving and based on unfounded facts. Not a single study of the situation in San Juan County has been done during the original moratorium nor the extension! The council is responsible to act in the interest of all of us, not engage in a knee-jerk response to a vocal segment. Please make a concerted effort to educate the community and to seek out the views of all of us.

Currently only 4% of the housing units on the islands are active compliant VRs. Many other national jurisdictions with caps have set the upper limit at 30%. The council is not acting justly once again.

Vacation Rentals provide an opportunity for vacationers to connect with the San Juan islands (many of renters have been coming to the islands for decades, support local businesses, and the economy of the islands). The islands are not a gated community and it is unethical to treat them as such.

There are far more complaints against non-vacation rental properties (Less than 3 complaints have been made against permitted VRs, but 50 complaints have been against non-vacation rental properties (people that live here) in the last 3 years.)

Please do do the right thing and discontinue to moratorium. VRs are not where your attacks deserve attention, and are no more than a scapegoat for island concerns. It is a violation to further your attacks on limiting VRs.

Megan Korb
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