

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Sharon Abreu <sharmuse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 1:13 PM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Subject:** Letter attached re Land Use Designations  
**Attachments:** sharon\_abreu\_ltr\_re\_land\_designations\_011422.pdf

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Dear Members of the SJC Planning Commission,

Please find attached my letter to you regarding Land Use Designations in San Juan County.

All best wishes,

Sharon Abreu

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January 14, 2022

San Juan County Planning Commission  
c/o SJC Department of Community Development  
135 Rhone Street  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
compplancomments@sanjuanco.com

Re: SJC Natural Resource Land Designation Methodology

Dear Planning Commissioners:

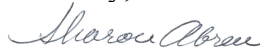
I am writing in support of the letter sent to you on May 5, 2021 on behalf of the Friends of the San Juans regarding the County's Natural Resource Land Designation Review and the recommendations contained therein for revising the draft designation methodology. I have become aware that there are significant flaws in the methodology logic that was used, and that the Planning Commission didn't discuss the methodology in detail or approve it. So I ask you please to do that. As a 20-year resident of Orcas Island, I'm concerned about the health of the natural environment that protects and supports our lives and health here in San Juan County.

I believe we must prioritize opportunities to limit development pressures on the farms and forests that supply our community with food, wood, economic benefits, and some of the most beautiful views in the world. As a climate change educator for 22 years, I appreciate the potential for these lands to provide climate resiliency for our county, and it seems to me that we should be designating more of them.

It's critical that the County find out from our local agricultural and forestry sectors what their views are concerning the amount of land necessary to support viable farming and forestry systems. And that the County assess the aspects of those industries that cannot currently be supported and the amount of land necessary to do so, and that it designate that amount of land.

I strongly support the Friends' recommendation to revise the draft long-term significance methodology to remove artificial distinctions between properties with similar productive capacity. The secondary benefits that farming and forestry provide our community are so very important and must not be overlooked. Our lives will be more in balance when we allow the natural environment that we live in, interact with, and are a part of, to be in balance.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,  
  
Sharon Abreu