

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** MARK MAYER <tmarkmayer@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:17 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** VR'S have to GO!

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To Whom It May Concern,

I moved my home and business to Orcas Island in 2010. Since then, I have seen a steady decline in the quality of life that my wife and I came here to experience. I know for a fact that it is a result of over-tourism. This transient population only takes from us, giving nothing of value in return. In my perfect world, I would scale back vacation rentals altogether and simply rely on the established hospitality businesses to tend to the needs of visitors. Vacation rentals have gotten out of hand and need to be regulated out of business. Unfettered capitalism only benefits a few investors to the detriment of the rest of us. It never works out well.

As a resident of San Juan County, I request that you respect and hear our voices and honor the decision made in good faith by the Planning Commissioners on August 20th, 2021, to freeze the number of vacation rental (VR) permits at the "Active and Compliant" number of 413 along with the associated island-specific caps.

Because Vacation rentals are high-traffic, high-turnover, public-facing business operations that enter uninvited into our residential neighborhoods, and because they hold undeniable power to transform a community forever, today we urge you to certify that we need relief – meaningful guardrails – to protect our homes and neighborhoods from this power.

Thank you for hearing our voices.

Thanks,  
Mark

MARK MAYER  
57 Twin Maples Lane  
P.O. Box 23  
Olga, WA 98279  
(206) 547-7723  
[tmarkmayer@mac.com](mailto:tmarkmayer@mac.com)