

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Diane Berreth <dianeberreth@rockisland.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:29 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** letter to Planning Commission in support of maintaining the VR moratorium

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Dear San Juan County Planning Commission,

I am writing as an Orcas Islander of over 15 years. I am requesting that you honor your August 20, 2021 decision to freeze the number of vacation rental permits at the active and compliant number of 413. This number of businesses in our residential neighborhoods is already having adverse effects. In my 15+ years here my road has gone from all owner-occupied homes to 1/3rd VRs. It has changed the character of our neighborhood-a third of the owners are absentee and their VRs have led to late night noise, parking on narrow one-lane roads, and trespassing on our property. I don't know how to contact these absentee owners as I live more than 100 feet from them and therefore am not informed as to who they are. T

The proliferation of VRs on our island is changing our neighborhoods for the worse. We no longer know our neighbors and can neither provide or get support from vacationers who are in their place. The growth of VRs in the islands is a critical issue that is negatively impacting our rural character and sense of community.

Please stand by your 2021 decision and recommend it to the County Council for adoption.

Thank you for your consideration,

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