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From: Robert and Carolyn Volk <fivolks@gmail.com>
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To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation Rentals

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San Juan County Council:

Our family first discovered the San Juan Islands in 1981, when we cruised the islands for a week and rented Mrs. Oldenberg's house at Doe Bay for a week. We were deeply impressed with the peaceful qualities of this area.

Two years later, we purchased 3 waterfront acres on Obstruction Island and built our rustic retreat there. The San Juans have been a part of our summertime ever since. Gradually we became more familiar with Orcas Island and Eastsound, where we provisioned at Island Market. We became parishioners at Emmanuel Church, and supported the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, OPAL, and the San Juan Preservation Trust. Over the years, we feel that we have become part of the Orcas Island community.

I ultimately made a major gift to the Orcas Island Community Foundation. As time went on, we decided that we would also like to have a home in Eastsound. In 2018, we bought the first of John Miller's seven townhouses on Haven Road.

We are deeply concerned over the current shift towards a high number of short-term rentals in the village of Eastsound. The last two years of

the Covid pandemic have created a very unusual situation. Hence, I urge you to cap the number of Short Term "Vacation" Rental Permits at the July 2021 level of "Active and Compliant" permits.

An increase of short term weekend rentals in Eastsound can only destroy its village character. Once lost, it can never be regained.

Robert and Carolyn Volk
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