

Sophia Cassam

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Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation Rental Cap

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Dear Council Persons,

We have lived on Orcas for the last 9 years and have seen the rapid growth of vacation rentals. We need to limit the number of vacation rentals because they negatively impact the fabric of our neighborhoods and community. They were homes that are now profit centers. Vacation rentals have a long term negative economic impact. Island residents shop at the hardware stores, the pharmacy, grocery stores, and get their cars repaired on island. Island residents contribute to and volunteer at over 200 nonprofit organizations that help to ensure the well being of all islanders. This occurs all year, not just during tourist season. Residents have children in our local schools.

On our road of 7 homes 3 are now vacation rentals where we used to have neighbors. The VR across the road from us is owned by an LLC in Wenatchee. Indeed over 57% of VRs in San Juan County have out of county owners. On Orcas it's 54.6%, on San Juan it's 50.7%, and on Lopez a staggering 82% out of county ownership. We need a cap on vacation rentals that were active and compliant as of July 31, 2021 as originally proposed by the Planning Commission. This was when the negative impacts on our communities became acute and calls for an immediate cap were voiced. We need caps for each island suited to each island's struggle with vacation rentals to ensure we have viable communities in the future.

Thank you for your consideration!

Greg and Heather Oaksen
Eastsound