

Sophia Cassam

From: Sarah Severn <sarah@sarahsevern.com>
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To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation Rental Public hearing

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To Council members

I am registering support for **maintaining** the cap of vacation rentals to the **existing active and compliant** . The island is overrun with tourists and completely under resourced with affordable housing for both seasonal workers and younger families that want to live here year round. San Juan county is the least affordable county in the state with a housing affordability index (HAI) of 57.7. A **staggering** 37% of housing is not occupied year round, because it falls into the category of second or third homes. This is again the highest level in the state. This situation is untenable and I would urge you to look at examples of what other communities , facing similar pressures, are having to resort to, including capping second home ownership. It is definitely more complex than just capping vacation rentals, but it is a good start.

Sarah Severn
Friday Harbor