

Sophia Cassam

From: Maxwell Cameron <MaxwellBC@lehrmancameron.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Comments for May 17 VR Cap Decision

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Greetings,

I am an Orcas Island property owner with an active VR permit for several years. Using our Orcas home as a seasonal vacation rental over the years has allowed us to retain ownership and off-season use of our home, which we love. I can imagine that many home owners are in similar situations, needing income to continue living here. It has always seemed like a good balance for us, providing some income to pay for house expenses, and still have time to use our home for a good portion of the year. Orcas Island runs on the tourist economy, that is obvious. So busy in the summer months, so quiet in the winter, with many shops and restaurants closed. If tourism slows as it did during early COVID, everything stops. In the same line of thinking, if vacation rental options are reduced, and there are fewer options for visitors, then fewer people visit, and the local economy suffers. We already see a huge demand for the summer months, and often sell out 6-9 months in advance.

We rent our home 16-20 times per high-season (4 night minimum), and employ 4-5 people for seasonal work at our home. We believe we are both serving this community by bringing in tourist dollars, providing local employment, and helping ourselves be able to live here part-time each year.

While not in favor of VR Caps, if you must enact some version, I vote for Option C, to allow a moderate increase in VR permits.

Thanks,

Maxwell Cameron
247 Parker Reef Road
Eastsound, WA 98245