

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Mark Ferrari <mawkyman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2022 10:33 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** I live on Orcas Island, and beg the council to LOWER the cap on Vacation Rentals.

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Dear County Council Members,

The Island we've loved is vanishing before our eyes. It is virtually impossible to find a plumber, an electrician, or a mechanic here anymore when we need one--because the old ones have retired and new ones who might be interested in coming can find NOWHERE here to live. In a place with fewer and fewer resources for those who actually live and work here, the last thing we need is more and more houses with no actual residents. I beg the council to think--really hard--about whether it is here to meet the needs and guard the increasingly scarce resources and services of county residents--who elected them--or just the interests of wealthy investors and visitors from elsewhere. Orcas Island is a great place to spend a weekend, but it really is getting harder and harder to conduct plain daily life here. I believe a community composed of more and more absentee landlords and transient strangers will do for San Juan County what years of can-kicking has done for the local ferry system. Will you enjoy managing a county that functions like the ferry system does? Because without some long term perspective and decisive courage, I fear that's where we're all headed.

Sincerely,

Mark Ferrari and Shannon Page  
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