

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Lynda Guernsey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:52 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** FW: To the Planning Commission

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**From:** Michael Johnson <mdjishere@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 3, 2021 8:28 AM  
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**Subject:** To the Planning Commission

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Seattle Times (Tan Vinh) 9/03/21-- Orcas Island restaurants struggle with more tourists, fewer workers, high cost of living

Overtourism diminishes the experience for everybody (tourists and locals alike). Elizabeth Becker says it best in "Overbooked," when she writes, "Either you control tourism, or it controls you." This is not a problem of not enough housing, or enough restaurants... this is the face of overtourism. Like other communities and countries have found, you control tourism by limiting promotion, and limiting the amount of lodging (i.e. VRs, and BnBs).

“I was in a freefall. For the first time, I lost control of my restaurant,” Downing said.

“Of course you lose money,” by taking tables away, he said. But “this is not a cash grab. I’m not going to sacrifice the customer experience for the bottom line. We are not Red Lobster.”

To hear the restaurant owners and workers tell it, trying to score a one-bedroom rental on the island for under \$2,000 a month is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

One factor often cited by workers is the rise of short-term rentals such as Airbnb and Vrbo, and landlords who focus on that revenue stream rather than leases to families.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/life/food-drink/amid-a-crazy-busy-tourist-season-on-orcas-island-restaurants-struggle-with-increased-demand-compounded-by-lack-of-housing-and-a-worker-shortage/>