

Sophia Cassam

From: Gregory Oaksen <gregoaksen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: VR Cap

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Dear County Council,

We signed up to testify at the March 8 County Council hearing but we were not listed to speak.

We support a cap on vacation rentals. First, we want to emphasize that a cap would not affect existing VR permits. Since 2019 three vacation rentals have occurred on our street of seven homes. We are dismayed to see vacation rentals, essentially a commercial enterprise, negatively affect neighborhoods and our community. The VR Work Group pointed out that 51% of VR permit holders live outside San Juan County. Thus, funds generated go outside our county. It is reasonable to place a cap on vacation rentals. We think a cap based on active and compliant permits of 413 as proposed on August 20, 2021 is a sensible and justifiable number.

We agree with realtor Sandi Friel's comments at the hearing that vacation rental permits increase a property's market value and ultimately the price of housing. Studies done by Harvard bore this out. These increased property values result in higher property taxes for all residents.

Thank You,

Gregory and Heather Oaksen
Orcas Island