

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Lisa Byers <lisabyers50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 14, 2022 6:18 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** Please cap the number of vacation rental permits

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Dear County Council Members,

I first came to the islands 28 years ago. At that time, it was still somewhat difficult to find information about accommodations. As a result, most visitors stayed at family-run inns and resorts.

With the growth of online booking platforms such as AirBnB and VRBO in the 2010s, it became easier to rent a house located in a residential neighborhood, and the number of tourist visits increased significantly. At the same time, the cost to purchase, own, operate or rent a house for year-round occupancy steadily escalated.

In the summer of 2019, a significant proportion of Orcas Islanders said "enough." They asked the Council to stop the proliferation of vacation rentals. Christine Minney and Cindy Wolf were elected, in part, because they promised to address the negative impacts of too many vacation rentals.

A moderate level of vacation rentals is part of the islands' history. But a booming industry with no limits threatens to erode our community. I urge each of you to take the utmost care with this fragile place. Please set the caps at the number that was active and compliant as of July 31, 2021. For Orcas that was 211 permits.

Thank you,  
Lisa Byers