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To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Comment for Vacation Rental Cap Meeting

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Dear County Council,

We are lucky enough to live in a part of the country that has not yet been completely destroyed by development and pollution (although we certainly have our share). There are few places like this left in this entire country, which is why our county is so popular with tourists. Despite that we act like we do not care about nature, beauty, animals, trees, etc. (we continue to destroy them all at an accelerating pace with development), we do still seem to value them which is why we flock to the most "beautiful" places for vacation, paint them as art projects, take photos of them, etc.

We know that along with accelerating development, places for non-human plants and animals to live are being destroyed, too. This loss of habitat for integral parts of the web of life not only degrades our quality of life; eventually, it will break that web of life, and we (our species) will disappear along with it.

Unfortunately the global economy as we know it now requires constant growth - growth of development, growth of consumption, including tourism, growth of extraction - to prevent collapse. Of course, infinite growth on a finite planet is not a good long term strategy.

I preface my request that you **please cap vacation rentals to the smallest number possible** with this background so that you understand my reasoning for making this request. While capping vacation rentals may seem to have little to do with the existential crises we face as a species on planet Earth, it is one small wound in the many billions of massive wounds that we are exacting on our life support system - i.e. the planet. We must begin to make change somewhere. Why not now, here, with this issue?

Let's take a stand and say "not on our watch" for San Juan County. Let us choose, consciously and deliberately, to take a stand for the future in this county, and choose not to sacrifice what nature still remains, in the name of tourism and an infinitely growing economy that will eventually consume and destroy everything in its path. Let's choose instead to plan for a future that will work for future generations, not just of humans but of orcas, and salmon, and bees, and birds, and big, old trees. That future is possible only if we accept that infinite growth on a finite planet is insane, and do something about it. We don't have to live that way, and in fact, if we do, we are contributing to our own destruction. It's time to face that reality, and take a stand for all the communities of this county, human and non-human.

Thank you
Elisabeth Robson
Lopez Island, WA