

Sophia Cassam

From: Darcie Nielsen <darciensjc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Comments on Draft Ordinance Establishing a Cap on Permits for Vacation Rentals

You don't often get email from darciensjc@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear San Juan County Council,

In 1998 the County took a huge step to regulate vacation rentals (VRs) by adopting performance standards in the UDC which were of course very controversial among the public at the time. As time went on and the number of VRs increased exponentially additional regulations were put in place to further mitigate localized impacts. Now several hundred VRs later, with a dwindling supply of long-term rentals available to serve the community and the essence of island livability continually challenged, the tipping point has been reached.

The Tourism and Visitor Management in the San Juan Islands, January 2020 report indicates that a 2019 survey found: *Very few residents think the islands “can handle more tourists” (6%), and 94% report the islands are at capacity (52%) or over capacity (42%) during the peak summer months. Similarly, few businesses (20%) say the islands can handle more tourists, and 79% report the islands are at (54%) or over (25%) capacity.* These are significant findings. Enough is enough, I believe it is time to cap VRs in the county and I urge you to take action accordingly.

Sincerely,

Darcie Nielsen