

## Sophia Cassam

---

**From:** Evan Wagoner-Lynch <wlynch989@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 11:59 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** Vacation rental comments

You don't often get email from wlynch989@gmail.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.

To the County Council,

I'm a 6-year resident of Orcas Island, and I have watched the housing shortage negatively impact my friends, my community, and myself. This is the first place I've lived where I've known people who live in cars and tents. In 2017 I lost housing due to it being converted to a summer AirBnb. I suspect it was unlicensed; it was certainly operating illegally. I've lived in 5 different housing situations in 6 years, including a tent and an old trailer.

During this time I've worked in hospitality, healthcare, and agriculture. I cannot afford to own property here, and likely never will be able to do so. I've watched most of my friends (all of working age) move away. I've watched help wanted signs show up on businesses in my community. I see the direct link between vacation rentals and the housing shortage.

I see no longterm future for myself if housing continues to trend as it does, towards unavailability and unaffordability.

I believe it is vital that the county maintain the cap of active and compliant permits at the July 2021 level. I urge the county to act with urgency and to look at other avenues to ensure affordable housing for families, workers, and elders.

Thank you,

Evan Wagoner-Lynch  
Orcas Island