

Sophia Cassam

From: Tracey Cottingham <outdoors@rockisland.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:47 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Tracey Cottingham's comments
Attachments: Thank you to the Council for your work on this important issue of VR permits.docx

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Here are my comments for today's VR meeting at Council,

Tracey Cottingham

Thank you to the Council for your work on this important issue of VR permits.

I'm Tracey Cottingham of Lopez Island.

I have attended the working groups on VR rentals and had many conversations with community members, including on the current Sustainable Tourism forum. It is hard to learn that a final decision is being made today by the County Council ahead of the completed Sustainable Tourism Roadmap for the islands. I've appreciated learning both sides of the argument for a cap and extending the permits. A cap at the current level from July 2021 on active permits would allow for a broader look at how we manage tourism and work towards a more equitable livable system for island residents

I am very alarmed if there is not a more equitable plan for future permits that do not come with permanent permit status, or are transferable to new property owners. There must be a system that does not grandfather in VR permits and leaves out opportunity for future possible VR permit holders. More work is needed on any new permits and a new system that is equitable now and in the future.

I'm impressed by the work and data collection of Chom Greacen that exhibits the facts of Lopez VR permits that 73% of active permits and 82% of inactive are registered to out of county owners. Part time property owners that use their house or for personal part time use throughout the year are clearly different on impact to Lopez residents than full time VR rentals.

Please hold the cap at 2021 levels, and continue to review the current system and develop a new VR permit system that holds open the possibility for future property residences to apply for VR permits.

Thank you.