

## Sophia Cassam

---

**From:** ES <orcasel@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:44 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** Cap Short Term Vacation Rental Permits at July, 2021 level of "Active and Compliant" permits

[You don't often get email from orcasel@att.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

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 County Council Members,

Please vote to cap the number of short term vacation rental permits at the July, 2021 level of "Active and Compliant" permits.

There is a deficit of affordable housing on Orcas and a surfeit of short term vacation rentals. Most of our businesses are desperate for employees, but people looking for work here can not find affordable rentals. Many longterm Orcas residents cannot find affordable housing, and our charitable organizations are looking for funding to build more affordable housing. We are a community, and it is the responsibility of all residents to support each other. Why should the burden of this situation fall on community members? What is the responsibility of the County and the County Council in all of this?

Another significant issue is Orcas Island vacation permits are issued to properties in Home Owners Associations. As a member of Buck Mountain HOA, I will observe that this situation is patently unfair. Our roads are not county roads—we pay for upkeep of our roads. More significantly, HOA members are at risk of lawsuits filed by vacation renters in the event of automobile accidents (Buck Mountain roads are notoriously dangerous). I can testify that the number of vacation rentals and the lack of meaningful oversight is having negative consequences for our neighborhood. Some issues include: excessive traffic and speed on a fragile and already dangerous road, bicycle riders ignoring posted signs forbidding their use (for obvious reasons), wedding trash dumped on the side of the road, bus loads of wedding attendees being ferried up and down...it is only a matter of time until someone is seriously injured.

Finally, I will note that the Town of Friday Harbor does not allow vacation rental permits within the township, nor does either Shaw or Lopez allow them. I respectfully ask that ALL of the County's Council members support Orcas Island's residents by a vote to cap the number of permits at the July 2021 levels; and to not to extend those existing permits beyond their current expiration date until the number of permits is reduced to the cap.

In addition, I would ask that they work on a proposal to not issue STVR permits in Home Owner's Associations, or to remedy the liability from HOA members.

Thank you for your efforts on this matter, Eleanore Stewart  
1906 Buck Mountain Road