

Sophia Cassam

From: Sara Lucia <samarialucia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 6:41 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Plese cap vacation rentals

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Dear Hearing Committee,

As residents of Orcas Island as well as small business owners with a restaurant in Eastsound Village we would like you to know that we are in support of a cap on vacation rentals. We feel that vacation rentals directly contribute to the housing crisis leaving many businesses that are vital to our community without the minimum amount of staff to function properly.

Right now we see that some of the regulations the county imposes, such as the ones that are against the building of adus, prevents the ability to create affordable housing for the working class in the islands. We also think that imposing a tax on second-home sales that would go directly to affordable housing could alleviate the pressures of the housing crisis. Capping vacation rentals is a great step toward creating affordable housing.

We would also like you to know that we are not opposed to all vacation rentals, but rather, we feel that vacation rentals should be better regulated so that they fit into the environmental and social standards of our island community. Many residents of San Juan County support themselves by operating vacation rentals. We are not opposed to these and understand that vacation rentals are a source of income.

Please cap vacation rentals.

Thank you, Sara Lucia, resident of Orcas Island