

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Donna Fischer <donna@fischersji.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:13 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** Vacation Rentals in San Juan County

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I'm torn on this issue. We 1<sup>st</sup> came to San Juan Island in 1987 to stay at a vacation rental owned by a coworker. After years of vacationing on that same property, we bought it in 2001 and built our "forever" home, mostly with our own hands.

Our original deed included a "Transient Rental" permit but we had no plans to rent our home ... not short-term or long-term. The TR permit sat dormant on our deed until this past year. After being bombarded with notices from the county to provide special documentation in order to keep the TR permit, we signed the document releasing it. Was this a smart move? We'll never know.

When the property passes to our heirs, they will need to decide whether or not to reapply for a "Vacation Rental" permit or not ... but I believe government cannot and should not dictate whether a property owner can rent their property ... short-term or long-term. We're already weighed down with government regulations on shoreline management, landscaping, and tideland restrictions.

Sustainable housing for working-class people is a problem but an issue not specifically an "island" problem. Homeownership is a *privilege* not a *right* and it's difficult for many. Affordable housing should be part of the master plan but I don't believe it sits on the back of Vacation Rentals. Medium-to-High density housing should be part of the future of San Juan County and will take a commitment from the private sector to make it happen ... not more government interference.

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