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From: Liz Smith <lizsmithmfa@gmail.com>
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To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation rental comments

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To whom it may concern,

As a local resident, I am very concerned about tourism destroying this island's culture and environment. I have lived in other places where this has happened and once you lose it, you can't get it back.

The priority should be local home owners (who *actually* live here) and local renters, not businesses and off-island home owners who profit off ridiculous amounts of tourism. When you have companies built on flying workers onto the island because they can't afford to live here, you have a serious problem.

I don't have the answers but I do believe the following things would help:

1. No Airbnbs/short term rentals allowed unless the owner actually resides on the property.
2. No vacation rentals period in residential neighborhoods.
3. Specific zoning for short-term rental property. Eg. No short term rentals allowed in specific zones, must be in commercial areas.
4. No grandfathered-in rental permits. There's already way too many and it's not fair for some to remain.

It would be nice if folks could be left to do what they want, but when the actions of a few cause serious repercussions for the island community as a whole, the county needs to step in and regulate to protect the community.

I don't want to live in a place where people have to be flown or boated in to staff restaurants or fix the plumbing. All in the name of profit. Teachers can't even find housing. It needs to stop.

Thanks,
Liz Smith
Friday Harbor