

Sophia Cassam

From: Lauren Jennings <lauren.m.jennings@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 10:35 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: vr permit caps

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my support for strict vacation rental caps on San Juan Island (and elsewhere in the county). As a home-owner and year-round resident of San Juan (raising a family on a very modest income), I am deeply concerned about the rising cost of living here, which seems to be driven in large part by vacation rentals. I am also deeply concerned about the lack of long term rentals for year-round residents who are unable to afford to purchase property--surely a fast growing group given the cost of real estate at the moment. I know of many people with good jobs who have had great difficulty finding housing here, some of whom have ultimately decided to leave because of that difficulty. Our community cannot remain strong and vibrant if regular, working class people, who fulfill essential roles as teachers, librarians, mechanics, and more, cannot afford to live here. As a farmer who is committed to providing islanders with locally, sustainably raised food, I'm also concerned about the impact of ever-increasing vacation rentals on the availability of farmland.

I sincerely hope that the committee will do something to slow the unsustainable growth of tourism and vacation rentals. I recognize that tourism is important to our economy and that vacation rentals provide important income for some local residents. However, I feel very strongly that more and more thoughtful regulation is required to bring things back under control and to ensure that San Juan remains a place where those who work here can still afford to live--and so that it remains the peaceful rural community we all love!

Sincerely,
Lauren Jennings
Rose Hollow Farm
59 Pleasant Valley Rd