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From: Lindsay G <matronangl@gmail.com>
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To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: San Juan Island

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My husband and I along with our children moved to the island 8 years ago to provide the kids a childhood that reminded us of our own. Since we arrived we have been working our tails off tirelessly with the hopes and dreams of buying our first home.

When the pandemic struck we selfishly hoped and prayed that we would finally be able to buy something in our price range that a family of 5 could comfortably live in. We were all set with a down payment and big dreams.

Unfortunately the opposite happened. Houses were being bought as soon as they were listed. Sometimes sight unseen. Some being bought up by corporations to remodel and turn into vacation rentals.

We are thrilled for our neighbors who have had an easy time selling their homes, and for our friends in real estate here who have had incredible success.

But where does that leave us? How many more islanders are in the same position? How many homes are being bought to be used as vacation rentals, 2nd or 3rd homes?? This is tough. As much as we love this island and our family is here, our children are thriving, we feel quite stuck. At what point is the monthly \$350 town water bill too much? At what point do we have to consider leaving a place that we love and treasure?

We love this island, our children are extremely active in sports and extra curricular activities. We support the arts. We own a family run small business. We contribute to this island. The people who are buying up homes to use them are not contributing to the island, they are taking from it. They don't care what happens to the community here. They don't have anything at stake.

If God forbid we were to lose our rental home, we would have nowhere else to go here on the island. There are no rentals available. There are no homes available that we could afford. We would have to leave the place my husband, children, and I call home. We would have to start our business all over again from the ground up. And we have worked so hard to build up our clientele and to lose that would be devastating.

Thank you for your time, and please do something to help Islanders like ourselves. There are many of us here.

Lindsay Gustafson
Gustafson Tree Care