

Sophia Cassam

From: Barbara Wollman <birdwalker@interisland.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: Air B&B loopholes

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Please support the Friends of the San Juans proposal to close the Airbnb loopholes. We are already losing farmers on San Juan Island, at least one of them due to loss of land. Once an environment is destroyed, it may be gone forever.

A local official once told me that San Juan Island has two economic purposes, construction and tourism. The Covid pandemic illustrated how fragile a support only two sources of money can be, especially those two sources. Local industry — especially farming — should be vigorously supported. Also, the well-being of full year inhabitants of SJ should be favored over tourism.

I've lived full time on San Juan for a quarter of a century. There were fewer than a dozen sources of tourist accommodations at that time, quite enough to support our economy — and keep the island quiet, the roads uncrowded and town peaceful. We have many examples of attractive tourist sites that were destroyed by over-tourism. Let's learn from those examples.