

## PSLU Committee

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**From:** Steve Slater <steve@vcasa.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 05, 2019 10:32 PM  
**To:** PSLU Committee  
**Subject:** Disillusioned STPH permit Holder #0011

Back 2012, when my wife and I first applied for a permit, I was already skeptical about how the laws were going to be written and whether they would be favoring bigger businesses. I was assured in a personal interview with the Mayor and I believe it was Councilman White, that no, they were interested in small ecology oriented agricultural properties like ours. We were told by the inspectors from the planning department, and the special use permit, that we were the type of vacation home they would like to see.

This was supposed to be a supplement to help us keep what amounts to a private nature preserve going, but our property taxes & insurance increased just as much as the mainland owned, local managed, profit focused ones, with no attention paid to how small we are and how low our gross, let alone our net income really is.

We rent to a friend for the 6 prime months a year, that leaves us forced to do short term with the 14.42% during the slower season, competing with places that pay no tax. The other Islands have a 30 day limit to not be taxed to death, not 180. How are you supposed to fit another exact 180 day booking?

Then the \$20,000 fine for one rental infringement. All this corrupt, overly rigid regulation, just makes people disregard the law, especially the wealthy who can afford legal backing.

Everything has become so black-and-white, there's no help to keep small places like ours in business. Eventually will drop out, the remaining vacation homes will be just the type that most people didn't one in the first place, focused on as much back to back rental as possible.

I was amazed by the figures I read about how the entire Hotel Industry pays less property tax than we do. They pollute the beaches, use massive infrastructure, ...

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