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### **Impact fees are what we really need**

**To The Editor:** With the recent wave of new approved and proposed commercial and residential developments in Henderson County, we county taxpayers must take action now to protect ourselves from having to foot the bill for necessary improvements to roads, water and sewer lines and other infrastructure. An impact fee based on square footage of each new structure would be the fairest means to fund these improvements. Developers would pay the fee initially but would include it in the project cost line in determining the rent or purchase price of the house or commercial structure, thereby recovering the added cost from the tenant or buyer. Impact fees will help all of us, if not in lower taxes, at least in reducing the amount of tax increases needed over time to pay for the added demand on services. Meanwhile, we can continue to welcome our new neighbors more heartily at the knowledge they are paying their share. The Henderson County Democratic Party supports implementation of impact fees in the hope that Republicans, who championed the "user-pay" concept in the 1990s, will join us Democrats in a bipartisan effort to help keep Henderson County's place as the gem of the mountains. Phil Alexander  
East Flat Rock

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