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Polk County Would Bring Problems With Impact-Fee Moratorium

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Top ten reasons against impact-fee reductions:

A moratorium on impact fees would result in the loss of an estimated \$6.5 million.

Nassau County and Highlands County didn't see any evidence that impact-fee reductions boosted construction, and the 50 percent reduction that Polk initiated in November "has not produced the necessary economic stimulus."

Road projects would be delayed.

We don't need to add to the glut of vacant single-family homes and apartments.

Thousands of square feet of industrial and commercial space are already vacant.

Polk would forgo impact fees from Legoland and CSX Integrated Logistics Center.

There is no assurance that savings on impact fees would benefit purchasers.

Who will pay for the infrastructure needed for new construction if impact fees are reduced or eliminated now? We still suffer backlogs for parks, fire and rescue, emergency medical services, libraries, jails, and law enforcement.

Impact-fee reductions would have a negative impact on other incentive programs.

There are strategies in the Polk Vision relating to economic development and infrastructure that have yet to be fully implemented.

Polk County, all municipalities and the private sector need to work together proactively to develop and maintain an aggressive competitively funded economic-development program that creates higher paying jobs through relocation of jobs to Polk County, expansion and retention of jobs by existing employers, and creation of new enterprises. Diversification of our tax base is the key to our future prosperity.

Granting the Polk County Builders Association's latest wish would not produce the economic stimulus we need today nor would it facilitate a sustainable economic future for our county.

Tell our county commissioners to say no to pretzel logic.

MARIAN RYAN

Winter Haven

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