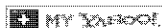




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## Home builders' study fails to make the case

Published Sunday, June 28, 2009  
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Your June 19 article concerning the home builders' economic survey provides an example of voodoo economics.

The National Association of Homebuilders claims that 890 homes built in Beaufort County in 2008 would produce a revenue "surplus" of more than \$6.7 million for local governments within a year. This suggests each house would produce \$7,528 above and beyond the additional costs for schools, fire stations, EMS, libraries, police services, etc.

One councilman opined that each new house generally adds one child to the schools at a cost of something like \$10,000 per year. Each new house would have to produce about \$20,000 per year in taxes to realize the alleged surplus. We didn't get that.

The study was presented as support for killing the proposed school impact fee legislation. Our senator, Tom

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Davis, withdrew the proposed school impact fee bill over opposition of real estate agencies and builders. Tom is a real estate lawyer with something of a conflict of interest. If he displeases his clients, he could lose business. If he displeases taxpayers who'd like some relief from the added costs of growth, he may lose his next election.

Beaufort residents are being socked with an approximately 30 percent tax increase to pay for the city's growth that failed to pay for itself. A school impact fee would partially relieve the tax burden growth causes. The county leaders who questioned this study have your best interests at heart and should be commended for questioning its validity.

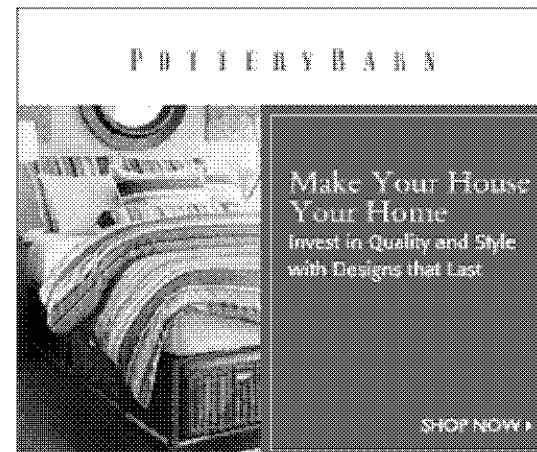
William P. Hendricks

Beaufort

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