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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Impact fee moratorium not best way to boost economy

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The Polk County Commission's extension of the impact fee moratorium is a local version of the Federal Reserve's Wall Street bailout. They're bailing out developers at the expense of the rest of us. It's more trickle-down economics that have been proven not to work.

Reducing or temporarily eliminating the 5-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax would immediately put money in the pockets of individuals and all sectors of businesses. It's projected that the impact fee moratorium will cost the county \$12 million to \$13 million over two years. That money is gone forever. The whole moratorium is pure speculation.

If the County Commission would cut other taxes, such as the gasoline tax, by the same amount for the same term, that \$12 million to \$13 million would immediately start circulating through local businesses, sustaining jobs and possibly creating new hires. It would reduce the cost of doing business in Polk County. Most of that money would end up back in county coffers through other taxes and fees.

A reduction or elimination of the gasoline tax would put more money into circulation now. An elimination or reduction of the dedicated taxes for county parks and libraries and the 1-mil transportation tax paid through property taxes would put more money in the pockets of both businesses and individuals at tax time next year. This proposal would be effective as soon as enacted and kick into high gear as property taxes are reduced over the next year. It would help everyone, not just developers, and probably would stimulate growth.

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