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Jul 28, 2008

Let's keep pushing for impact fees

To The Editor: This is in response to the letter, "State won't let counties impose impact fees" (T-N, July 20).

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The truth is that the state Legislature has approved impact fees to help offset the costs of new development in at least three instances: Chatham County has had them for years, and Brunswick and Catawba Counties have recently received state approval to impose them. (Durham and Orange Counties are also currently seeking approval.)

Locally, Henderson County Commission Chairman Bill Moyers has expressed tentative support for impact fees, but state Sen. Tom Apodaca remains opposed to them for reasons he has yet to fully articulate.

Because the state is reluctant to grant approval without strong local support, it is important that impact fee supporters continue to speak out. Otherwise the burden for funding new schools, roads and infrastructure will continue to fall solely to local property owners.

Perhaps Sen. Apodaca and the letter writer would care to explain how they can continue to support a system that enriches out-of-state developers at local taxpayer's expense?

Jeff Callahan

Flat Rock

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