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## Ivory Homes Objects to School's Impact Fee Plan

None by KCPW

(KCPW News) The largest home-builder in Utah is says school districts will only boost home prices in the state if they start charging fees on home construction to pay for school buildings.

"I'm struggling every day to figure out how to present a house to someone for under \$250,000," says Ivory Homes CEO Clark Ivory. "And if every city I work in then has an opportunity to throw three or four or five thousand dollars additionally, those costs get ramped up to the point that noone can afford a home in Utah."

Current Utah law allows cities and counties to impose impact fees on new developments, but school districts cannot. A state lawmaker wants to give school districts the ability to charge those fees to help build schools in new housing developments. This week the Granite Board of Education voted to support the concept. Ivory maintains there is enough money in the state's surplus and revenue coffers to fund education without penalizing homebuyers.

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### 1. Landy Christensen said:

I totally disagree with Clark Ivory's statement regarding development fees on new housing. The statement is totally self-serving.

## 2. Pat Rusk said:

Homes are expensive. Educating the children in those homes is expensive, too. Perhaps the process of buying a home SHOULD include decisions about whether marble countertops, a whirlpool bath and hardwood floors are more important than the education of the children who live there. A great public school at the end of the street will as much to increase the value of the home than any of those other "necessities". That holds true for families with or without kids. I guess it's just a matter of where you want to make your investment.

## 3. Jim Rock said:

But where is the equity in imposing fees only on new construction and not on existing homes or apartments? It's ok to resent your neighbors' marble countertops, but don't pretend you're doing it for the schools. Maybe you want to raise property taxes . . . but an impact fee on new housing is the type of disproportionate tax that should we've worked hard to eliminate.



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