

LETTER TO EDITOR

CAN'T TAKE 'SMART' OUT OF 'STUPID'

'Stupid Growth' has been around Florida for decades, brought about by the same building, real estate and banking industries who makeup most of the membership of the Chamber of Commerce, who work as part-time State Legislators and local commissioners ...these are the supporters backing the misnomer called "Floridians for 'Smarter' Growth". The same group that played a huge part in getting us in the mess we are in today.

Anyone who has lived in Florida for more than a decade, knows what 'stupid' growth has done, they drive it and live in it every day. Amendment 4 is the only true 'Smart' Growth Plan. Its intent is to keep growth within the boundaries of local Comprehensive Plans, designed around available services and resources. Proposed changes to existing plans, with approval of commissioners should go to referendum at the cost of the developer, if such referendum could not be held at a regular election timetable.

To say that this process encourages 'go for broke' and 'deep pockets' would be to say that 'Developers are loaded for 'bear' (FHD)'. A good example of this is the issue in St. Petersburg where developers were ramrod for a bigger, taller, denser Growth plan.

There are already-approved developments in the pipeline to accommodate growth for 100 million people, not to mention numbers of vacant foreclosed homes already on the market. The "build it and they will come" theory has continually failed our economy along with the false promise of managed growth, much like the tale of 'the boy who cried wolf'.

Floridians can take back their right to vote on growth by voting for Amendment 4.

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