

## **Letter To The Editor / St. Petersburg Times**

### **Subject: School Funding**

The Coalition 4 Responsible Growth (C4RG) couldn't agree more with Jack Lamb's article 12/9/05 regarding his proposal to the School Task Force. C4RG took an active role in Tallahassee on the new Growth Management Bill, and realize that a little from all sources is an equitable way of funding our school needs. Since we have a State-controlled school system in Florida, we must look for help from our legislators to comply with classroom size issues as well as explosive growth.

We support immediate increase in school impact fees based on the pending updated study figures; but new growth alone is not responsible for our schools' overcrowding. It is a fact that approximately 50% of the new students coming to our schools are moving into existing homes. Resale homes, therefore, should also contribute to the impact they are making. Reasonable documentary stamps are entirely appropriate. However, Hillsborough County cannot enact this funding source - this is one area of assistance we need from our legislators.

Once impact fees and doc stamps are being assessed, we need to study to what extent they make a difference, and then address the need for the appropriate sales tax. We might find it to be less than we expect, if at all.

I encourage the Task Force to consider Dr. Lamb's proposal as it represents responsible growth. Let's show the rest of the State that we are serious about solving our overcrowding problems.

(Denise Layne, Executive Director, C4RG)