

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, growth should pay for itself and not be shouldered by those seniors and working poor who can least afford the increase to property taxes it brings; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County is and continues to be the fastest-growing county in Tennessee and the 43rd fastest-growing county in the United States, with over 9,000 new residents every year coming to our community; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County has proven to be a great steward of the resources provided to it by being one of only three counties within the State of Tennessee to have obtained a AAA bond rating; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Rutherford County, for far too long, have been given the burden of paying for new development by ever-increasing property taxes with little benefit associated with the expansive new development; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Planning Commission and the Plan Rutherford Committee have embarked on a comprehensive plan known as Plan Rutherford to create a vision for Rutherford County's future and to address that currently, under Tennessee law, the growth it has experienced and will continue to experience does not pay for itself; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted the County Powers Relief Act T.C.A. §67-4-2901, et seq, which provided the authority for Counties to enact a limited adequate facilities tax, which has proven to be woefully inadequate in meeting the demands for additional services the county has experienced; and

WHEREAS, according to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in 2022 the Rutherford County adequate facilities tax only generated \$5,484,390 to educate 49,340 students, which equated to only about \$111 per pupil, and in comparison, Williamson County generated \$30,860,909 for 41,980 students, which equated to about \$735 per pupil, and Wilson County generated \$16,936,412 for 19,600 students which equated to about \$864 per pupil; and

WHEREAS, because of the exponential growth in Rutherford County, the County Powers Relief Act of 2006 has strangled the county's ability to fund, apart from property taxes, infrastructure improvements, expanded adequate school facilities, and necessary emergency services and other services within the county by expressly forbidding the county to enact an impact fee or development tax; and

WHEREAS, astonishingly, the municipalities within Rutherford County are authorized to exercise impact fees, and Murfreesboro, Smyrna, and LaVergne have found it necessary to impose impact fees on new development to provide their constituents with the necessities of life; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County desires to be given the same opportunity afforded to municipalities within the county in determining how to best fund infrastructure improvements and the expansion of adequate school facilities and necessary emergency services and other services necessitated by its accelerated growth; and

WHEREAS, it is unconscionable to continue the scheme of forcing the property taxpayers of Rutherford County to fund infrastructure improvements, adequate school facilities, and the expansion of emergency services and other services caused by its accelerated growth with more property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Commission deems it to be in the best interest of Rutherford County and its citizens to request that the Rutherford County State Delegation continue to support the needs of all of our constituents by supporting legislation that would provide Rutherford County the same options granted to municipalities within this county and to neighboring counties when it comes to funding infrastructure improvements and the expansion of adequate school facilities and necessary emergency services and other services necessitated by accelerated growth, and correctly place the burden of this growth where it belongs, and not on the backs of Rutherford County property taxpayers.