

RESOLUTION 2005-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA, URGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT A COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PACKAGE ADDRESSING ISSUES CONTAINED HEREIN DURING THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida's Growth Management Act was created in 1985 in an effort to create a blueprint for growth in Florida's cities and counties; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties plan for future growth through local comprehensive plans, but there is no defined state plan that provides an overall growth management strategy; and

WHEREAS, as Florida's population continues to increase, cities are challenged to meet the infrastructure needs to account for new growth and development, but there is no infrastructure revenue source dedicated to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, counties, school districts, or the state of Florida control every funding source that has been authorized for implementing growth management capital improvements and complying with concurrency requirements; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jeb Bush and Florida's House and Senate leaders have made growth management reform a top priority for the 2005 legislative session

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The City of Mary Esther, Florida urges Governor Jeb Bush and members of the Florida Legislature to support legislation as part of a comprehensive growth management package that:

- Establishes a process for the county commission and the municipal governing authorities within a county to jointly levy local government infrastructure surtax within their jurisdictions to fund infrastructure improvements.
- Authorizes municipalities to levy a real estate transfer fee for infrastructure improvements.
- Repeals the fuel adjustment charge exemption from the municipal public service tax.
- Revises concurrency requirements or adequately funds needed infrastructure.
- Ties state funding and budget allocations to articulated state growth management policies. In other words, no more public expenditures that are inconsistent with articulated growth management policies.
- Revises the Sustainable Communities Certification Program to encourage, not discourage, cities from participating.
- Creates a state comprehensive plan that articulates state planning goals and policies with measurable benchmarks.
- Grants cities greater flexibility and less state oversight in pursuing growth management strategies.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Jeb Bush, Senate President Tom Lee, House Speaker Allan Bense and members of the Florida Legislature.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Mary Esther, Florida this 7th day of February, 2005.

John Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura Aldrich, City Clerk