

Thumb up: St. Lucie adds its voice against bad legislation

By editorial board

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SUIT TO SLOW SPRAWL: St. Lucie County commissioners have agreed to join in a lawsuit against one of the worst pieces of legislation to come out of the Florida Legislature in years. Considering some of the other bills that have oozed out of Tallahassee, it takes a lot to be that bad.

But, Senate Bill 360 is that bad. Drafted by lobbyists for developers, the legislation would strip local governments of their authority and eliminate state oversight of major residential and commercial developments, opening the door to urban sprawl and potentially creating worse growth than some of the growth that has gotten the state into its current economic mess.

And, the bill would change rules so the cost of infrastructure for to the new developments would fall on taxpayers rather than developers.

The suit being joined in by St. Lucie County claims the law is unconstitutional on several fronts, including that it puts an illegal unfunded mandate on local governments.

Cities and counties should not have to sue the state Legislature, which is supposed to be representing the people of the state. But, when the Legislature is supporting developers rather than citizens, a lawsuit can at least expose the lawmakers for their callous selling out.

