

*The other side
of the story...*

Bundling is Manipulation



Local Government has chosen a dark road. Heretofore voters approved each individual SPET project at the voting booth. That's over. Pork barrel politics may soon become regular business.

Our Specific Purpose Excise Tax once benefited local residents. Money generated by the extra penny tax paid for the fairgrounds' Heritage Arena, a new library wing, and our interconnected pathway system.

SPET has worked because ballot items were genuine community needs. But when government identifies nearly \$164 million in tax initiatives, and town council favors a single ballot question approving an extraordinary \$77 million in bundled spending, politicians have become public manipulators, not public servants.

Instead of looking to the community for the needs list, our electeds shut out all private interests from participation in the upcoming SPET. That is wrong. The proposed \$77 million alone will hog the funding for 6 years at the current rate of collections.

To further fuel their spending frenzy, local politicians have discussed adding an additional cent to raise our sales tax even higher.

Tethering big-ticket wasteful spending initiatives to something the community really needs is dirty politics, the height of bureaucratic scheming. Even the *News&Guide* shamed the move as akin to attaching unpopular riders to bills that have nothing to do with them. We hope our electeds will change course before it's too late.