

## **Statement from State Representative Jason Shoaf**

I've been following the [stories from Red Tape Florida](#) about what's happening in one panhandle county. This simply isn't good government.

When the state passed reforms to make building inspections more efficient, the goal was to help small builders, working families, and tradesmen, not to create a new toll booth. But that's exactly what is happening. Instead of welcoming private-sector inspectors who can keep projects moving, they've slapped on a local tax masquerading as a "fee" — \$500 per permit — that punishes the very people who are trying to do the job right and by the book.

These inspectors aren't lobbyists or lawyers. They're the men and women inspecting the builders work, climbing ladders, and making sure homes are built to code. They hold licenses, meet state standards, and pay their taxes. They don't need to be taxed again by local bureaucrats inventing new ways to slow them down and tax them even more.

I'm calling on all political subdivisions of the state to immediately suspend this practice and start following Florida law. I will be following this story closely to determine if further action is warranted.

**Rep. Jason Shoaf**