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To the editor:

While it's disappointing news that the state's CPA trust fund is declining due to the increased popularity of the CPA and a sluggish housing market, the CPA continues to be one of the best investments a town can make in its future. Where else can a town get a 50 to 65 percent return on its money? No bank would offer such favorable rates, or allow such flexibility in how the money is spent. What's more, Chesterfield and Worthington, by adopting the CPA at 3 percent, are very likely to receive a 100 percent match, even if the trust fund is declining.

The CPA is a valuable, dedicated source of funds for important community projects that have trouble finding funding elsewhere, and it has accomplished impressive results in many communities, from Southampton to Southwick. We should not forget that issues like our decaying historic buildings, lack of affordable housing, and shrinking farms and forests have been with us for a long time. Regardless of temporary changes in the economy, they will still need our attention if we want them to have a place in our future. They deserve the support of our communities.

All of the projects that the CPA enables benefit communities both now, and in the long-term, and require a long-term perspective to fund. The housing market will eventually rebound, and the match from the state's CPA trust fund will increase once again.

The communities that adopt the CPA know that it's a local investment in their land, heritage, housing and future, and the state match is just the icing on the cake.

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