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Stand up to developers

The fact that developers are complaining about the new stamp duty is an indication of its potential effectiveness.

The "sunset clause" they call for would only fuel further the rampaging speculation in the housing market. Speculators would line up as the "sun" began to "set".

Developers are clearly only concerned about profits – and not housing, as they should be. Affordable housing should be a right and not something driven by developers' and speculators' profit margins.

Louis Loong Hon-biu, secretary general of the Real Estate Developers Association, says the policy could "hurt unintended targets" ("Developers want date for extra stamp duty to end", January 5). Would those targets be the developers' own purses?

I do not like to see taxes increased in any way. I think I can spend my money much better than any government.

However, taking profit from developers and speculators to make housing more affordable

and potentially enlarging the city's purse, a purse all residents of Hong Kong can benefit from, does not sound too bad to me.

I applaud the deputy secretary for transport and housing, Annette Lee Lai-yee, for standing firm against the developers and looking out for all those seeking affordable housing in Hong Kong.
Omer Quenneville, Mid-Levels