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TESTIMONY ON HB#1007 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Fair Share Plan for Maryland

TO: Chair Atterbary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: JoAnne Lyons Wooten

OPENING: My name is JoAnne Lyons Wooten I am a resident of District 24. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1007, Fair Share for Maryland Plan.

I am an active member of the Maryland Poor People's Campaign (MD PPC).

As a member of the MD PPC that bases its actions on poverty data, I know that the income and wealth distribution has become much more unequal in the last 30-40 years. One of the many reasons that rich people stay rich is their ability to pay a relatively small proportion of their income in taxes (often legally). This bill increases the number of tax brackets and therefore makes income taxes more progressive. Also, as a Marylander, I know that our state has a budget shortfall which is bound to require cutting of vital services in our state. The Fair Share Plan is projected to increase tax revenue by \$1.6 billion per year, which could only help relieve this shortfall. Remember that people who receive inheritance generally have not worked to earn them, so increased taxes on estates should not interfere with work incentives. Finally, this bill will increase the number of families with children who can receive help from the state.

My moral tradition emphasizes the importance of paying taxes in order to support the common good. Finally, from my experience standing beside low-wealth and working Maryland residents, I learned how large the wealth gap is between Black and White people. Although people of every race use government services, low- and moderate-income people (of every race) need them more.

To sum up, I support the Fair Share for Maryland Plan, not just because it will fairly tax wealthy people (who now pay less than their fair share), but because it could bring needed revenue to the State of Maryland to support the basic human rights and needs of all Marylanders.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1007

-JoAnne Lyons Wooten

