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TESTIMONY ON SB0766 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Fair Share for Maryland of 2024

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Jeffrey S. Rubin

OPENING: My name is Jeffrey S. Rubin. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0766, Fair Share for Maryland of 2024.

I have been a resident of Maryland for almost forty years and have enjoyed the quality of life here. My family has benefited from the access to good job opportunities, education, libraries, parks, and diverse cultural amenities. But it has become apparent that public investment is necessary to sustain and upgrade these resources if we are to successfully adapt to a changing world. We have a collective responsibility to make the investments required to meet these needs, particularly in the areas of education, transportation infrastructure, and the environment where climate change has become an existential threat.

It is important to find the funds to make these investments now. Because we are facing a structural deficit that is projected to worsen year after year, we do not have time to spare. While some savings may be achieved by cost-saving measures, we cannot rely on this approach to generate the funds necessary to address the challenges. We must identify sources of additional revenue to finance these critical investments. Postponing action today would only make the problem more difficult tomorrow.

SB0766 takes a balanced approach to revenue generation that includes reforms designed to benefit small businesses and people at the lower end of the income spectrum. It would close the corporate tax loophole that has given large multi-state corporations a competitive advantage over smaller local businesses. Similarly, the LLC loophole would be altered in a way to reduce the impact on smaller businesses. The increase in personal income tax would be felt primarily by the wealthiest 5% of households; the largest increase would only impact the top 1% and not exceed 1% of income. Meanwhile, many households earning \$100K or less would see a decrease in their taxes. This would reduce poverty and provide an economic stimulus.

In summary, SB0766 would provide revenue that could be used to address our most pressing needs in education, transportation, and the environment, while benefiting our small businesses and residents who are less well off. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0766.**