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Testimony in Support of SB859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Presented to the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

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My name is Andrew Swetz. I am a resident of District 11. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB859, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.

Thank you to the following sponsors of the Bill Sen; Hettleman, Benson, Rosapepe, Lewis Young, and M. Washington. These are the kind of people that are standing up for the working class and how to go forward in these turbulent times and to empower our state and make living situations easier.

I have lived in this state most of my life and I lived in various parts around the state as well including a short time in Baltimore City. I would say the constant theme I see throughout the state is the corporations and private equity just running smaller businesses out of town or buying them out.

A disturbing trend for sure there is also a good number of abandoned places throughout the state mostly in the city but eventually some of these places got scooped up by private equity which I am sure is paying nothing in taxes or at the very least just not enough in taxes while the property value of the places go up and the value of the neighborhood goes down.

A good example would be of all the jobs I worked most often including the one I have working for BCPS has two jobs because of the property values and housing values going up due to corporate greed and private equity literally draining the hard working citizens dry.

There are plenty of positives to this for instance the hard working people of MD would have more money and less stress to worry about paying rent or in most cases affording food. The state itself would be able to have more of a surplus to help with infrastructure and improve the life and quality of the lives for the younger people.

In closing there are a lot of monetary reasons as always to support this. However there are a lot of reasons why this would greatly benefit the citizens and workers of the Lower and working class to have a higher standard of living and not have to worry so much about rent or the mortgage payments.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB859.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Swetz