

Dear Senators:

Resource Generation - Baltimore Chapter urges a favorable vote on SB 70 due to local control of implementation, allowing tax burden to be shifted to higher income earners for public goods, and the recommendation that funds be used for public education and transportation.

Resource Generation is a collective of young people between 18 to 35 with class privilege and/or wealth working toward the equitable redistribution of wealth, land, and power. Given the budget deficit facing the State of Maryland this year and the requirement to pass a balanced budget, options like raising additional revenue need to be carefully considered. Senate Bill 70 allows for this by giving counties leeway to raise local income tax up to 3.7% of income while giving the option to lower income taxes for lower brackets. This would be a progressive tax opportunity that could lower the tax burden on low income earners and raise it on high income earners, with the majority of Resource Generation - Baltimore chapter members falling into the latter group. For our state to thrive, public education, transportation, and other social infrastructure needs to be paid for through taxes, and those taxes should fall on high income earners like us.

We want to note that this is not therefore a duty to raise taxes; it will be left to County governments to determine if tax rates and brackets need to be adjusted based on the needs of each county. Baltimore City for one has seen climbing income inequality since at least 2011, per the earliest available [data from the Federal Bank of St. Louis](#). This means that those with the greatest ability to pay need to be making up for budget shortfalls, both at the State and County level. Senate Bill 70 is a piece of the Fair Share Plan for Maryland that will help raise state revenue needed for important government investment in areas such as transportation and public education.

For these reasons, Resource Generation - Baltimore Chapter respectfully requests that the Senate vote favorably on SB 70.

URL: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/2020RATIO024510>