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Jerry Kickenson
Wheaton, MD 20902

TESTIMONY ON SB859 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
THE FAIR SHARE FOR MARYLAND ACT OF 2025

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

FROM: Jerry Kickenson

My name is Jerry Kickenson. I am a resident of District 18 and I am submitting this testimony in support of SB859, The Fair Share for Maryland Act.

I have lived in Maryland for over 30 years. My wife and I moved first to Washington, DC for work, and then to Maryland when we had children. We did so because Maryland offered excellent schools, parks, recreation, and diversity. Whether Maryland had higher taxes than other nearby jurisdictions or not was never a factor, since we knew our taxes were going to services and programs that we could appreciate – programs that provided resources and support to those who needed them. However, I did not and still do not appreciate subsidizing tax avoidance by large and out-of-state corporations and the very wealthy, which the Fair Share Act would put an end to.

The Fair Share for Maryland Plan will ensure that Maryland's wealthiest residents and big corporate businesses pay their fair share in taxes. It would raise taxes on the largest estates, the highest-income residents, and multi-state corporations while increasing tax credits available to lower-income residents, especially families.

I have been privileged to earn much in my career. If the Fair Share for Maryland Act was already law, I would be paying higher taxes on my income, and be subject to the estate tax. This is only fair and even benefits me. I can easily afford small tax increases in exchange for funding the reasons I moved to Maryland and why I intend to remain here- education, recreation, diversity, public safety, and so much more.

The Fair Share For Maryland Plan will help enable Maryland to fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, needed transit and road improvements, and many more state needs while making our tax system fairer. In this time of budget crisis, the only responsible action is to implement revenue reform through the Fair Share for Maryland.

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