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Testimony in Support of SB 859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Presented to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

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My name is Ruth Kidd-Johnson and I am a resident of District 45. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 859, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025. I'd like to thank Delegate Caylin Young on this committee for sponsoring this bill.

I'm the owner of Niecy's Fabulous Juice Bar in Baltimore City. We have two locations – one on Belair Road in Gardenville and one on the Johns Hopkins University Homewood campus. Niecy's Fabulous Juice Bar is a local, family-owned, women-owned, and minority-owned cafe offering healthy and affordable food options. We're now in our third year of operations. Niecy's Fabulous Juice Bar is named for my mom who was committed to working in the community. She was a lead housing counselor, helping rehouse families displaced by the construction of Ravens Stadium. She was community-driven and dedicated to getting resources to people.

I support HB 1014 and closing corporate loopholes. I'm a small business owner, I pay my taxes and the current system is unfair. If I have to pay my way, then everyone has to pay their way, especially the big businesses that already have more money than business owners like me.

I know where the taxes I pay go – my business relies on public services like trash service, road maintenance, snow plowing and street and alley cleaning. I also have one child in public school, another enrolling next year, and I'm pregnant with our third child. I'm supporting the community that sustains us – it's time for all businesses to start paying their taxes.

Our juice bar on Belair Road is a bright spot on the block and we're helping rebuild our community. I know people appreciate it and we try to keep it clean and welcoming. I love my customers and we've gotten to know whole families, three generations of people enjoying our products.

The more business that comes to the area, the more the whole community thrives. I like providing something healthy and we're committed to having our food and drinks available at an affordable price. That's the value of small business in our communities.

Some lobbyists will say that they're speaking for small business but they're not talking about me. Closing corporate loopholes won't affect my business at all. The only difference I can see is how we all benefit when the big businesses that don't pay their taxes finally do.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 859.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Kidd-Johnson