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TESTIMONY ON SB 859 - FAVORABLE
FAIR SHARE FOR MARYLAND ACT of 2025

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

FROM: Arlene Ogurick

My name is Arlene Ogurick. I am a resident of District 41. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 859, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.

I have been a Maryland and Baltimore City resident for all of my 78 years and owned & lived for 50 years in a house on the 300 block of East 30th Street - directly behind Barclay Elementary School. I am a retired public librarian with keen interests in education and the environment. Now is the perfect time to support & pass the Fair Share for Maryland Act 2025!

In keeping with my beliefs in the importance of equal access to information and opportunities for self development, I volunteer at non-profit organizations that provide these opportunities to children and adults. At one of the organizations, I share information about animals & their habitats as well as the importance of conservation and the effects of environmental change.

At a second non-profit organization, staff and volunteers bring hands-on art activities to elementary and middle-school-aged young people, community centers, veteran's facilities and group homes. Participants are excited by these opportunities to create and express themselves. Another part of this group's offerings is a course to introduce/reinforce leadership skills to 10th

& 11th graders from public & private schools. Students are exposed to community challenges and new perspectives on how to solve them.

While many organizations in the non-profit sector work hard to provide essential services, it is critical for us to ensure that our state's safety net programs and public services are fully funded. As Maryland faces negative financial impacts from the new federal administration and a growing budget deficit, this is the perfect time for corporations and the wealthiest residents in Maryland to pay their fair share to help protect the vulnerable. This is not the time to lean on budget cuts to critical programs, such as the Blueprint.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act provides a strong and clear opportunity to raise desperately needed revenue to support our communities without placing the burden on working families.

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