

## HB 734 – UNFAVORABLE

**Topic:** Property Tax – Agricultural Use Assessment – Community Solar

**The McDonald Mandate: People Before Solar Panels**

**To the House Ways and Means Committee:**

My name is **Ms. McDonald**. I am a candidate for Delegate in District 45. I am here to testify as **UNFAVORABLE** on HB 734 because the State's priorities are backwards.

### 1. Tax Breaks for Utilities, But None for Neighbors

HB 734 extends property tax favors for solar developers until **2030**. Why is the State so eager to protect the profit margins of energy companies for the next four years, while families in District 45 are facing an **imminent threat of homelessness** today?

### 2. Stop the Fire Sale: Keep State Assets in the State

We are debating tax breaks for solar panels while the State is trying to sell off our community assets like **2100 Guilford Avenue**. My mandate is: **Stop the Fire Sale**. If the State has time to "refine" tax breaks for solar projects, it has the time to protect the buildings that belong to our community. We need those buildings for grocery hubs and vocational training, not as tax shelters for developers.

## THE CONTRAST: WHAT THE STATE CUTS VS. WHAT THE OFFICIALS GET

### WHAT THE STATE CUT (Services taken from Citizens):

- **\$300 Million:** Total cuts to the Developmental Disabilities (DDA) budget.
- **\$150 Million:** Direct general fund cuts to disability services.
- **Waiver Services:** Reductions in "meaningful day" and residential support hours.
- **One-on-One Support:** New limits on dedicated 1-on-1 hours for high-needs individuals.
- **LISS Program:** Elimination of Low Intensity Support Services for families.
- **Eligibility Stripping:** Procedural disenrollment of families from Medicaid/DDA.

### WHAT THE OFFICIALS GET (What they kept for themselves):

- **\$2.2 Billion:** Sitting in the **Rainy Day Fund** (Revenue Stabilization Account) while our neighborhoods are flooding.
- **\$185,000 Salaries:** Massive pay hikes for the Comptroller, Treasurer, and Attorney General (HB 607).

- **\$128,000 Salary:** Pay hike for the Secretary of State (HB 607).
- **\$449 Million:** New appropriations tucked into the Rainy Day Fund this year instead of being spent on the people.
- **Solar Tax Breaks:** Property tax favors for utilities extended to 2030 (HB 734).
- **Vendor Cash:** Millions in "equitable adjustments" for road contractors (HB 193).

## Conclusion

Stop getting rid of our resources while asking for more money to manage the decline. Stop prioritizing solar panels and "Rainy Day" savings over the people who are drowning right now. Use that \$2.2 Billion to fund a **Community Repair Fund**, or stop giving tax breaks to big business until District 45 is made whole.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ms. McDonald**

*Candidate for Delegate, District 45*

**By Authority of: Nichole McDonald for District 45, Lonetta Mason, Treasurer**