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March 5, 2025

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for SB 859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Honorable Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (BRHP) to express our support for SB 859. This bill will provide resources that Maryland communities need, while also ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals are contributing their fair share to the public services from which we all benefit.

BRHP is a non-profit organization that expands housing choices for families with low incomes who have historically been excluded from housing in well-resourced neighborhoods, helping them to access and transition successfully to safe, healthy, and economically vibrant communities. As the Regional Administrator for the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, BRHP has opened pathways to a better future for low-income families for over 10 years. BRHP currently provides over 4,300 low-income families with over \$83 million in rental assistance annually in the form of the Housing Choice Voucher and couples that with counseling supports for families as they move from areas of concentrated poverty to areas of opportunity in Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties. BRHP is dedicated to helping achieve racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures low-income families have access to quality and affordable homes in communities of their choice.

As an organization dedicated to increasing opportunities for Maryland families, particularly families with low incomes, we commend the Fair Share for Maryland Act for striving towards policy that aims to positively impact our state. The Act will:

- Raise at least \$1.6 billion per year in new revenue annually to support good schools, health care, transportation, and the state workforce needed to deliver high-quality services.
- Cut taxes for more than 1 million Marylanders with a family income of \$80,000 or less, boosting working families' incomes to strengthen our economy and reduce child.
- Ensure the wealthiest 1% of households in Maryland pay their fair share in taxes.

- Support local, Maryland-based businesses by ensuring a level playing field so that their large corporate competitors are also paying their fair share in state and local taxes.
- Advance economic and racial justice by addressing aspects of Maryland's tax system that disproportionately benefit wealthy, white households at the expense of Marylanders of color.

We cannot grow our economy without investing in the people of Maryland. It is only fair that the largest corporations and wealthiest individuals pay their share for the services and resources we all need.

It is unjust and inequitable that the wealthiest 1% of Marylanders, those earning more than \$700,000 per year, pay a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than those in any other income group and that 1/3 of the largest corporations in the state pay \$0 in income taxes in a typical year. The Fair Share for Maryland Act will help address this upside-down tax system and ensure that Marylander families have the resources needed to thrive. For these reasons, we respectfully ask the committee to make a favorable report on SB 859.

Sincerely,

Adria Crutchfield  
Executive Director

