

Hasiuk, Ethan (City Council)

From: donald gresham
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Testimony

Bill 25-0036: Fair Share PILOT Taskforce Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Chair Danielle McCray and Members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee,

My name is Donald Gresham. I've been a homeowner in District 12 for almost 15 years, an advocate, and I am the President of the Baltimore Redevelopment Action Coalition for Empowerment (BRACE). I urge a **favorable** report on Bill 25-0036 to create a Task Force that will recommend a fair Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement between the City and the anchor institutions.

When anchor institutions don't pay for the city services they use, it puts an increased financial burden on everyday Baltimoreans like my neighbors. Instead of having residents pay more, anchor institutions should pay their fair share. These institutions have the money. They pay their executives multi-million dollar salaries, and the amount of money they are paying to the PILOT is small compared to their endowments. Our city

services are overburdened, residents pay for service but we are not benefitting because services are strained.

The City needs more money for infrastructure repair. My neighborhood has a lot of issues with flooding. When there is heavy rain or snow, water is not able to flow properly so the wastewater ends up in people's basements. My neighbors and I have to pay a lot of money out of our pockets to repair damage that is not our fault. If anchor institutions paid more to the General Fund, the city would be able to afford infrastructure repairs instead of placing the burden solely on homeowners.

Residents pay very high property taxes. It is hard for us to manage high property taxes plus the increased water bills, BGE bills and overall cost of living. If anchor institutions claim to be a part of the community, they need to pay their fair share like the rest of us do. Please vote **YES** on this bill. Thank you.

Donald Gresham

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