

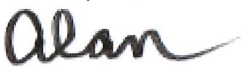
**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Alan Spiegel <Alan@TheBeaconNewspapers.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 8:12 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR 84 & CR 85

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote against CR 84 & CR85 as they will add thousands of dollars in additional taxes to my future home sale and purchase of a new home. A Howard County home transaction is charged the 2nd highest amount of taxes in the state & if these bills are passed, Howard County residents will pay more than any other jurisdiction in the state. Please vote NO!  
Thank you!



Alan Spiegel  
7213 Wolverton Ct.  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
240-786-7611

May 18, 2020

**Re: LETTER IN OPPOSITION OF CR 84-2020 – Transfer Tax**

Dear Chairwoman Jung and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) writes in opposition of Council Resolution 84-2020, which proposes to increase the County transfer tax from 1% consideration to 1.5%. Not only is a global pandemic an inappropriate time to increase taxes, but this tax is not sufficiently targeted towards its stated purpose.

This Council and the Howard County State Delegation have been discussing a transfer tax increase for several years. The stated intent has always been to increase revenue for schools. However, only 25% of the transfer tax goes to schools; the rest goes to fire, parks, and housing & community development. While these are valid concerns deserving of funding, a tax increase to benefit schools should be specifically targeted for schools.

Even if this tax increase was appropriately directed, now is not the time to increase citizen-paid taxes. Raising the transfer tax would significantly increase the cost of buying and selling a home in Howard County, making it more difficult for our citizens to do so when many are already struggling financially. This would be unfair, especially considering the additional residential taxes assessed on Howard County homes. Furthermore, raising the transfer tax from 1% to 1.5% also makes us more expensive than many competing jurisdictions. Howard County needs to be encouraging new residents to grow the tax base and generate new revenue, not discouraging economic development.

Finally, a global pandemic is not the appropriate time to increase taxes for our citizens. The past two Annual Spending Affordability Reports have indicated that the County's fiscal health will worsen as a result of the School Facilities Surcharge and Forest Conservation Act bills passed by the Council at the end of 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating our financial challenges and creating financial insecurity for many citizens. Now is not the time to increase taxes.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Council vote NO on Council Resolution 84-2020. Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued support of the local home building industry.

If you have any questions about these comments and would like to discuss MBIA's position further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [abailey@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:abailey@marylandbuilders.org) or (202) 815-4445.

Best regards,



Angelica Bailey, Esq., Vice President of Government Affairs

Cc: Councilman Opel Jones  
Councilmember Christiana Mercer Rigby  
Councilman David Yungmann

County Executive Calvin Ball  
Sameer Sidh, Chief of Staff to the County Executive  
Councilmember Elizabeth Walsh

Bruce A. Harvey  
Testimony 05/18/2020  
Howard County Council  
Resolution No. 84-2020

My name is Bruce Harvey and I live in Fulton, MD, I am testifying against Council Resolution 84-2020.

When first proposed, I was in favor of an increase in the County Transfer Tax to put additional funds into School Construction. However, two items have happened since the original proposals. A new School Impact Fee has been passed that increases that Fee on new construction to \$7.50 per square foot, an increase of almost 6 times the current rate. The idea of supporting the transfer tax increase was to spread the burden of School Infrastructure across the board, so it was not just being built on the shoulders on new construction (a much lower rate than \$7.50 per square foot). The other changed factor is that this current proposal for increasing the County Transfer Tax only allocates .25% of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the increase to School Construction. The extra .25% collected can now be used for other purposes than School Construction, so in essence a general tax increase. I cannot support a tax increase in light of the current shutdown of the economy due to the Coronavirus. Businesses are struggling to stay alive, unemployment is at record levels, and salaries of those still employed are being reduced. A tax increase in this environment is ill advised. We need to defer this discussion until the economy gets back on its feet.

For the above stated reasons, please vote no on Resolution 84-2020.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 2:51 PM  
**To:** halima.amjad@gmail.com  
**Subject:** District 3 - CR 84

**First Name:** Halima

**Last Name:** Amjad

**Email:** [halima.amjad@gmail.com](mailto:halima.amjad@gmail.com)

**Street Address:** 8716 Polished Pebble Way

**City:** Laurel

**Subject:** CR 84

**Message:**

Hello Ms. Rigby, As a resident of your District, I urge you to vote against CR 84. Combined with your resolution, CR 85, both will lead to Howard County home buyers and sellers paying more than anywhere else in Maryland. My husband and I bought our first home here in 2017 and hope to eventually sell this house and buy our "forever" home in Howard County as our children grow up. We would seriously consider moving to other nearby counties if the overall cost of selling and purchasing is lower elsewhere. Thank you for your consideration, Halima Amjad, MD, MPH