

Sayers, Margery

From: matt pendergast <matt.pendergast@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 1:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jung, Deb
Subject: NO to CR84 and CR85

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

All,

Please vote **NO** to CR84 and CR85, and focus on cutting unnecessary spending during this worldwide pandemic. During this time of economic crisis, it is **unfair** to your constituents to raise recordation fees and transfer taxes to fund things which can clearly wait, an example of which is the Cultural Center in Downtown Columbia.

Thanks
Matt Pendergast
District 4 voter

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Diane
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please do not support CR 84 and CR 85

-----Original Message-----

From: Abraham G <gol.abraham@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 6:58 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Diane <dijones@howardcountymd.gov>; Glendenning, Craig <cglendenning@howardcountymd.gov>; Regner, Robin <rregner@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please do not support CR 84 and CR 85

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

As a Howard county resident, I am highly concerned about the proposed tax increases under CR 84 and CR 85.

My wife and 3 year old daughter moved to Howard county from California in 2017 and love it here. The people are warm and friendly, the nature is beautiful, the schools are second to none, the parks are great, it is safe, to name a few of the reasons. My wife is pregnant with a son who is due in a few days. As our family grows we will likely need to find a larger home, and we would love if it were in Howard county.

When I looked at the details of the CR 84 and CR 85 tax increases, I realized this would add a large tax burden on us when we sell our current house and then again when we purchase our new house. I understand that taxes are important for the county to run effectively, but I am concerned this tax increase encourages people to rent or to leave Howard county, and not set up roots and become long-term members of our community.

Please do not support this tax increase.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Abraham Kazemizadeh Gol

Narges Golgol

Sayers, Margery

From: Eric Goldberg <egoldberg@oxfordra.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed Transfer and Recordation Tax Increase

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

Council members, I am writing to request that the county council not enact the narrow and disproportionate recordation and transfer tax increases currently being considered. I believe these increases will make the county uncompetitive, delay recovery and are not the solution to Howard County's fiscal problems.

I am a property owner of commercial real estate in many counties in Maryland including Howard County and I believe that these increases are significant enough that if enacted, would significantly impact my investment decisions and cause me to most likely decide to invest in other areas. And I fear my holdings in Howard County would immediately be negatively affected.

I would urge you and your colleagues to fully implement the recommendations of the Spending Affordability Advisory Committee including creating a stakeholder process to, "*work jointly with all stakeholders to develop a long-term fiscal approach that addresses the priority needs of the community and is fiscally sustainable,*" and completing a fiscal impact analysis of tax changes and other legislation with the potential for sizable impact revenues and expenditures.

I understand that the County revenues have been significantly impacted from the COVID-19 crisis, but I truly believe trying to improve the budget issues on the backs of real estate owners is not the right solution. Our tenants are experiencing significant pain and consequently, we are as well. This tax increase would only serve to further exacerbate our fiscal woes.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Regards,

Eric Goldberg

301-983-8000 x 24

301-983-0444 (fax)

240-426-1144 (mobile)



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Sayers, Margery

From: Anna Kristine Ferre <akferre@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 8:50 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Legislation on Recordation and Transfer Tax Increase - Testimony

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

Councilmembers and County Executive Ball,

I am writing to you to express my opposition for legislation to increase recordation and transfer taxes for home purchase/sales. Earlier this year, our family made the tough decision to proceed with the sale of our home in hopes that we can move to a neighborhood where we will not have to worry about our polygon being rezoned ever year.

After weeks of searching, crunching numbers, making room in our budget, and heavily weighing our options, we decided to build with NV homes in Maple Lawn South, which will not be build until later this summer/early fall.

Although some may have the notion that people who buy in Maple Lawn or Maple Lawn South are well off and do not need to worry much about tax increases, I want to emphasize that my family and I fall squarely in the middle class and work very hard to ensure that our two kids will have a solid education in a safe neighborhood. We scrounged every penny and likely dipping into our retirement savings so we can be in a home where our kids can walk to school from elementary school through high school and won't need to worry about being rezoned.

The increase in recordation and transfer taxes will not just affect us...it will cripple us. In a new build, it falls solely on the buyer to pay recordation and transfer taxes. The tax increase will be on us to shoulder alone. If we couldn't come up with the extra funds to cover closing costs due to the tax increase, we won't have a home to go back to as ours has already sold. We chose the least expensive house in that neighborhood and even with the lower cost compared to the others, we would be looking at a tax increase from \$9000 to almost \$20,000 (and that's not including state transfer taxes).

I understand that you all have a very tough job to do...balancing the county's budget and deciding where the money will come from. Trust me, I know this is hard. But I hope the answer you come up with is to NOT take more money from hard working county residents like me. Please consider halting unnecessary spending where you can, at least until the Coronavirus impact to businesses and residents as a whole has been well understood. Like most of us, now is the time to cut unnecessary spending.

My husband and I are counting our blessings. We both still have our jobs and our children are safe and healthy. But we are anxious everyday. We worry that our jobs will ultimately be impacted. We worry that my husband will get sick when he goes outside to get our groceries. We worry that we have chosen the worst possible time to move...why couldn't we anticipate a global pandemic? Why couldn't we anticipate this tax increase proposal? Why didn't we know when we first moved to Howard county that we would end up worrying every year about school rezoning?

If we had a crystal ball, we would have made so many different choices...and we can't be the only ones who have these thoughts weighing heavily in our minds.

Please, I urge you all again to reconsider this tax increase. Step away for a minute from your budget spreadsheet and consider the real-life impact to families looking to buy homes in the county.

Thank you

Anna Shin, Howard County Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Timothy McCormack <tfmccormack@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 7:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: CB 84 and CB 85

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

I write to urge you to vote NO on CB 84 and CB 85. Now is not the time to raise these regressive taxes!

Timothy F. McCormack
7806 Old Litchfield Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Shenaz Oomrigar-Sabnis <shenazos@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 10:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NO to CR84 & CR85

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

County Council members,

Happy Memorial Day weekend! It is sacrifices that our fellow country men make have made this holiday possible and I want to remind you that YOU ALL work for us people NOT the developers! Time to make sacrifices not sacrifice us at the behest of greedy developers.

You, the county administration have chosen not to raise nearly 250 DPZ, DPW and DILP fees, among others, for the 20th year in a row, because it would impact the development community during the economic crisis. You are not listening to voices of the people who elected you and DO NOT WANT any increase in their taxes.

It is absolutely SHAMEFUL that a time when we should be reigning in budgets and taxes, Council person Rigby & Jones and CE Ball are choosing to add to the burden of the very people they should be helping. At a time when we are all tightening our budgets, proposing increases of taxes of any kind is being tone deaf and completely ignoring how much people will be hurting because of the lockdown and it's consequences! Why not halt building the \$\$\$\$66 million Cultural Center temporarily instead of adding to the burden of people who are already cutting down on their needs rather than wants (the cultural center is a want NOT a need) and learn a thing about budgeting when in crisis!!

NO MORE TAXES OR INCREASES!!! VOTE NO TO CR84 & 85 or prepare to be VOTED OUT!

I normally do not use CAPS for anything but I feel like you are not listening to us and hence the loud CAPS.

I hope you remember the sacrifices that were made as you celebrate Memorial Day this weekend and do the right thing - VOTE NO to increasing transfer taxes and recordation fees.

Regards,

Shenaz Sabnis

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:21 PM
To: woldsarah4@gmail.com
Subject: Council - CR 84 and CR 85 Concerns

First Name: Sarah
Last Name: Wold
Email: woldsarah4@gmail.com
Street Address: 7133 Stone Throw Way
City: Elkridge
Subject: CR 84 and CR 85 Concerns

Message: Dear County Council Members and Staff, I am writing to express concerns that, if passed, CR 84 and CR 85 would result in increased local transfer & recordation tax rates on real estate transactions. Please consider the wishes of your constituents and our financial welfare. While Howard County is a county of affluence public servants and teachers like me struggle to afford housing and the high tax rate associated with calling Howard County "home." Please consider us when you make your decisions on CR 84 and CR 85. Respectfully, Sarah Wold

Sayers, Margery

From: Robin Hessey <rmhessey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 10:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: In favor of passing CB-84 and CB 85 to raise fees.

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

Honorable Councilmembers,

I am fully in favor of raising the recordation fee and transfer tax, especially since the increases are progressive. I understand these taxes are only levied when you buy or sell a home, so if you don't do that you don't pay it.

I am in support of passing CB-84 and CB-85 to raise these fee/tax rates.

Also, if the NCC project is not funded for FY 21, the Housing Commission's already secured funding package is at significant risk. The consequence of failure to approve capital funding for the NCC is that the \$26.5 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and other State funding—40 percent of the necessary financing—is likely to be withdrawn by the State. Loss of this funding would negate being able to develop this LIHTC project. Failure to proceed or complete a project can result in a loss of points to the developer in future rounds. This would make it extremely difficult for the Commission or Orchard Development to win future LIHTC funding.

Robin Hessey
10768 McGregor Drive
Columbia MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Schlossnagle <lisabmrss@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 1:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: support CB84 and CB85

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

Dear Council,

In previous emails to you, I've shared my support for raising the recordation fee. I also support raising the transfer tax. After seeing the alternatives proposed by Ms. Jung, Ms. Walsh, and Mr. Yungmann, I am even more in support of raising these progressively structured consumption taxes.

Your passage of these bills is the fiscally responsible thing to do. Government austerity in a financial downturn does not accelerate economic recovery, but it does prolong the stress and challenges for most people.

I urge you to pass CB84 and CB85.

All the best,
Lisa Schlossnagle
Fulton, MD (D4)