

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State's tax burden already high enough

THE FIRST SENTENCE IN THE editorial "More than spinning wheels" (Sept. 26) states, "When the business community complains that it's not getting taxed enough, attention must be paid."

The evidence the editorial cites for this is that a couple of business groups, including the Greater Baltimore Committee, headed by Donald C. Fry, are pushing to increase the gas tax by 10 cents or more on everybody, not just businesses.

A little research shows that Mr. Fry was on Gov. Martin O'Malley's transition team, and that on Sept. 5, Mr. O'Malley appointed Mr. Fry to serve on the Maryland Port Commission until 2010.

So in other words, a group headed by a man with close ties to Mr. O'Malley is supporting Mr. O'Malley's desire to raise our taxes. And this is considered worthy of our attention?

The governor and some members of the General Assembly simply do not get the message: Our taxes are high enough.

I hear Maryland is a wealthy state. But after I've had five years with no pay raises or meager raises, I wonder where the wealth truly lies. Perhaps with people such as Mr. Fry?

The state government needs to stop creating programs with no funding sources in place. It needs to re-examine what programs it is funding.

It needs to show fiscal restraint and responsibility instead of forcing taxpayers to bear the costs of its overspending.

What truly worries me is that this extra money state officials want to collect will just get squandered on programs that don't work, on pork projects that benefit few people or on perks for politicians.

D. KEITH HENDERSON
Perry Hall