

SB0958_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0958 – FAVORABLE
Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2024

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0958, Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2024

Maryland has an ambitious program to reduce the use of fossil fuels to ameliorate the effects of climate change in our state. Fossil fuel extraction and refinement are exacerbating the problems we are facing. This bill is an attempt to put a financial cost on the continued use of those fuel sources while we transition away from them to provide the state revenue for adaptation and mitigation of health harms from these fuels.

This bill facilitates addressing health impacts of climate change and can provide environmental justice to vulnerable populations already facing extreme effects from climate change caused by fossil fuels sited within or near those communities.

Fixing the problem and moving towards Maryland clean energy goals requires a plan to do so and the funding to make it happen. This bill moves the costs of fixing problems to those who are major contributors to those problems. It is a common sense solution to move Maryland forward.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0958.