

May 25, 2018

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1128 – *Offshore Drilling Liability Act*.

This bill establishes that an “offshore drilling activity” is an ultrahazardous and abnormally dangerous activity and that a person that causes a spill of “oil” or “gas” (as those terms are defined in the bill) while engaged in an offshore drilling activity is strictly liable for damages for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that is caused by the spill. “Offshore drilling activity” means the exploration, development, or production of oil or gas in, on, or under the federal outer continental shelf (OCS) waters; and, transporting oil or gas by pipeline, ship, or otherwise from a specific site of exploration, development, or production of oil or gas on the federal OCS. The bill has prospective application and does not apply to any cause of action arising before the bill’s October 1, 2018 effective date.

House Bill 1456, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 1128.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor