



## **HB0128 - SUPPORT**

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### **HB0128- Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**

Joint Meeting of Economic Matters and Environment and Transportation Committees  
January 23, 2025

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, Members of the Economic Matters Committee, Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am the Executive Director of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, the Climate Forests Campaign, Eastern Forests Advocacy Group, and leadership member of the Forest Carbon Coalition. The Climate Communications Coalition supports HB128.

Requiring big polluters, who have knowingly harmed our climate and our environment, to pay a tiny portion to help remedy the consequences of their actions, is a logical step. Frankly, we should consider increasing the percentage of the profits taken. After all, cleaning up after yourself is not just a social norm, it can also be legally enforced as a crime or a tort. This also applies to pollution causing climate change: the extreme weather patterns and temperatures that we are witnessing today were predicted since the 1970's or earlier. Yet these same companies hid the data, lied to the public, and continued to rake in growing profits. And they continue to do so today.

This bill is popular because it would raise around \$9 billion and help solve the current funding problems largely caused by the polluters: Maryland is struggling to build up climate-resiliency, to heal the damage caused to our communities, and to protect communities, fauna, and flora from further harm caused by them. They must pay for the consequences of their actions.

**If there were an amendment to this bill**, we suggest confiscating advertising, media, and communications budgets of the big polluters. These companies continue to pollute our air, waters and soils at the same time that they're funding massive misleading advertising campaigns positioning themselves as 'clean energy' or 'leading the way in clean energy research.' We suggest confiscating any portion of their production, media, and outreach budgets that would reach Maryland audiences, and use these funds to provide truthful and data-driven information about the climate emergency and public service campaigns that generate resiliency in our communities, to ready them for the impact of a climate emergency that the big polluters have created. We urge a favorable report on HB0128. ###