

HB 128 – SUPPORT

Meryl Goodman Thomas
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To: Joint Meeting of Economic Matters and Environment and Transportation Committee,
January 23, 2025

Re: HB 128—Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 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:

I am a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I have lived in this beautiful state for more than 72 years.

I am committed to protecting the earth and keeping it inhabitable. Marylanders have been experiencing the impacts of climate change: extreme heat, flooding, and worsening public health. That's why I am writing today – to implore you to do everything in your power to pass HB0128, the RENEW Act.

The RENEW ACT will shift the burden of rising costs due to climate change from Maryland residents (using our tax dollars) to the polluters – large out-of-state fossil fuel companies – and prohibiting those companies from passing those costs on to consumers.

The bill outlines a procedure for assessing how much climate impacts are costing our state and requiring large out-of-state fossil fuel companies to pay that amount to Maryland. The one-time payment only applies to companies that have emitted more than \$1 billion tons of carbon cumulatively between 1994 and 2023.

New York and Vermont have already passed this kind of legislation. California, Minnesota, New Jersey, Virginia, and Massachusetts are considering similar bills.

Please pass the RENEW Act to relieve Maryland taxpayers from escalating costs and to protect our residents from the worsening impacts of climate change. I urge you to submit a favorable report and send this Act on to the House.

Thank you for your help in saving our state.

Sincerely,
Meryl Goodman Thomas