

HB128 SUPPORT
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HB 128- Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025

I am a victim of climate change. When wildfire smoke from Canada reached Maryland in June of 2023 I developed a cough. I was eventually diagnosed with Sarcoidosis, a rare disease. Although I was told that the cause is unknown, from my own research I learned that this disease is commonly diagnosed in firefighters.

It's not just bad luck that I got sick. Someone made the decisions that caused my illness.

Fossil fuel industry executives understood the connection between burning fossil fuels and climate change in the 1950's. By the 1970's they were modeling the disasters that are now happening. The out-of-control wildfires that made me sick – and have made thousands of people in Los Angeles homeless just this past week – are not an accident.

How many people need to be sickened by smoke, lose their homes to fire or floods, or lose their lives, before Big Oil & Gas are held to account?

Although the people who made the decision that led to today's disasters are shielded by corporations, the corporations themselves must be required to pay for the damage they have caused.

Maryland cannot afford what it will cost to upgrade infrastructure to protect people from flooding exacerbated by extreme rainfall and rising seas. Our state cannot afford the coming predictable disasters yet unknown.

I urge you to pass this bill so that we will have the resources needed to help the people of Maryland stay healthy and safe.