

HB0128\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0128 – FAVORABLE**  
**Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**

**TO:** Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0128, **Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**

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.

My Jewish faith reminds me “Please G-d, give us wisdom and skillful hands to heal the Skies and the Earth from our sins; *Y'kum purkan lish'maya* 'May salvation arise for the heavens'. that the blessings of the sun flow over us, for life and not for death, for blessing and not for curse”. Fossil fuels are stored sunlight energy that we must manage positively to protect ourselves from the negative impacts of releasing that energy.

Maryland can begin to realize these goals by passing this bill that will establish the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program in the Department of the Environment to secure payments from certain businesses that extract fossil fuels or refine petroleum products in order to provide a source of revenue for State efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. The methodology contemplated establishing the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Fund to support efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

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 commonsense solution to move Maryland forward.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0128.**