

HB128 - SUPPORT

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HB 128 — Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025

Joint Meeting of Economic Matters and Environment and
Transportation Committees

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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,

We urge a favorable report on HB0128. Currently, every Maryland taxpayer is bearing the full cost of climate disasters and adaptation projects. This goes for large municipal and state climate mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as for climate disasters and damage to taxpayers' personal property.

For example, flooding has increased significantly in Annapolis and low lying communities in Southern Maryland due to climate change. Severe storms this year alone have cost us more than \$30,000 to repair damages done by water and wind, costs that our insurance company now declines to cover, despite paying thousands of dollars through the years to ensure that our property was covered. Now, we are informed by our insurance company that they will only cover flooding caused by broken pipes or equipment inside our home - not climate related damage.

Collectively, the costs to our state and to every taxpayer are rising significantly to repair the damage wrought by fossil fuel companies, while their profits soar. It is long past time to hold those that cause the

damage to pay. Please do the right thing now for our state and for all Maryland taxpayers - pass the RENEW Act. We urge a favorable report.