



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support House Bill 128 - Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather –
RENEW Act of 2025
House Economic Matters Committee
January 23, 2025

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which establishes a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Fund. This fund will support state and local efforts to adapt to and/or mitigate the effects of climate change and to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. The need for significant additional resources at the state and local levels to make our communities more resilient and to address the impacts of climate change is real, and it is urgent.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed municipality of about 18,000 residents that is 2.4 square miles in size and is located within Montgomery County. About half our residents are homeowners and half renters, with a wide range of incomes. In Takoma Park, as across the state, climate change has brought us heavy rains, strong winds, heat waves and storms which are becoming more frequent, intense, damaging, and costly for both residents and local governments.

Our city is not alone in this. Older stormwater systems can no longer keep up with the heaviest rains, creating dangerous flooding conditions that affect city and State-owned roads and public spaces. Temporary streams now form rapidly on a regular basis, causing road and property damage and creating safety hazards. Fallen trees, weakened by the effects of climate change, can have devastating results for roads, businesses, homes and vehicles, and leave communities without electricity for hours and sometimes days at a time. Our most vulnerable city residents, like residents across the state, also bear the brunt of climate change impacts with health impacts and higher energy cost burdens.

The City, along with the State and other communities statewide, does not have the resources to design and install the additional infrastructure and protections we need to stay safe, or to address damage of this magnitude, or to assist residents--especially lower income residents--to recover from or help prevent such impacts.

Despite all our efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, it is already here. We need to adapt rapidly. A recent City-sponsored stormwater resilience study by Low Impact Development Center estimated costs up to \$4.6 million to address 10 critical projects needed to address current flooding issues, beyond the City's already robust stormwater management program costs.

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More resources are needed to address this pressing situation. Even in a fiscally challenging budget year, these funds must be provided. The City supports the House Bill 128's goal to require payment by large fossil fuel companies to raise revenue for this needed infrastructure. This legislation would take important steps towards ensuring that the costs of climate change adaptation and mitigation are borne, at least in part, by the responsible parties.

This will help us meet our city, county and state greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Our City climate action framework specifically addresses increased resiliency measures as well as greenhouse gas reductions.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports House Bill and encourages a favorable committee vote.

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