



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB 128 - Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025
DATE: January 23, 2025

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

This bill would permit the state to secure payments from businesses that extract or refine fossil fuels to provide a source of revenue for the purpose of climate adaptation or mitigation efforts and to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations.

This issue was recently addressed by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (“MCCC” or “Commission”). During its 2015 session, the Maryland General Assembly codified the MCCC, officially charging the Commission with advising the Governor and General Assembly "on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change." The MCCC is chaired by the Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary and consists of members representing various state agencies, the general assembly, local government, business, environmental organizations, organized labor, philanthropic interests, and the State University system.

The Commission ultimately determined that Maryland taxpayers should not have to pay the full cost of escalating climate change impacts in the state, including those from sea-level rise, severe storms, and health impacts. To protect taxpayers, the Commission recommended that the Maryland General Assembly create a study of the current and projected costs of climate change to the State of Maryland for the purpose of joining other states in assessing a fee on certain major carbon polluters that cannot be transferred to consumers to compensate the State of Maryland.

MEA urges the committee to consider this information before issuing its report.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, directly (landon.fahrig@maryland.gov, 410.931.1537).