

**Favorable Testimony for
Climate Change - Attorney General Actions, Climate Change Restitution Fund,
and Climate Change Restitution Fund Advisory Council
HB0340
Health and Government Operations
2/11/2025**

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On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report on HB0340 authorizing the Attorney General to bring legislation against fossil fuel companies on behalf of the state of Maryland. Dozens of jurisdictions across the country, including multiple other states, have brought similar legislation. Climate damages are costing Maryland today. Higher tides, hotter heat waves, and heavier storms are destroying property and driving up costs.

Right now, Maryland taxpayers are paying for all of these costs. The fossil fuel industry knew and lied about the climate crisis. Their own documents, dating back to the 1970s show that internally they acknowledge the settled science of anthropogenic climate change, but launched a multi decade campaign of disinformation that delayed policies designed to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

These fossil fuel companies should bear the financial cost of climate damages that their products caused. Allowing Maryland's AG to bring a lawsuit against these companies would provide another opportunity for Marylanders to recover these costs from the fossil fuel industries.

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