

Letter of Support**Senate Bill 149 – Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**

*Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 13, 2025*

I thank Senator Hester for introducing Senate Bill 149 (SB149), Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025. I applaud Senator Hester for her leadership in addressing the grave threat posed by climate change to Maryland's communities, environment, and the economy.

As a standing member of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC), I was proud to vote for the MCCC's recommendation that the Maryland General Assembly commission a study of the current and projected costs of anthropogenic climate change for the purpose of assessing a fee on major carbon polluters to compensate the State of Maryland. By identifying the many ways in which greenhouse gas emissions drive up costs of public health, diminish our natural resources, escalate the housing affordability crisis, and otherwise hinder economic development, we can begin to put a true cost to the impacts of climate change. From there, we can join with other states in assessing a fee to those most responsible – without passing these costs on to our communities.

I support the RENEW Act's inclusion of a study in line with the MCCC's recommendations. I am happy to consult with any agency tasked with leading this study and contribute any expertise that the Office of the Comptroller and the Bureau of Revenue Estimates can provide. This is a vital step in protecting Maryland's economy from the looming impact of climate change.

I urge a favorable report on SB 149. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Matthew Dudzic, Director of State Affairs, at MDudzic@marylandtaxes.gov.



Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland

