

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 149  
**Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**HEARING DATE:** February 13, 2025

**SPONSOR:** Senator Hester

**POSITION:** Favorable

Chair Brian Feldman, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagen and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Frederick County, Maryland and person concerned with the costs due to the effects of climate change I ask for a Favorable Report on SB 00 37.

Senator Hester's Bill is comprehensive and practical. In brief, the Act would secure compensatory payments from fossil fuel businesses based on a standard of strict liability in order to provide a source of revenue for State efforts to

- 1) adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, including climate change adaptive or mitigation infrastructure projects within the State and
- (2) address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations.

It is not news that the fossil fuel industry is responsible for the changes to our climate over the last 150 years. Industry studies since the 1960's confirmed this, although many of these studies were kept from the public. The science today is quite clear. Shouldn't such companies, who are some of the richest in the world be required to compensate the populations least able to protect themselves from the negative effects of climate change?

The Fiscal Note accompanying SB 149 points out that small businesses will not be adversely affected and " local governments may be meaningfully positively affected from additional funding for infrastructure projects to avoid, moderate, or repair damage caused by climate change and for other similar purposes."

Other states have enacted similar legislation. Maryland should do likewise to protect its most vulnerable residents.

Please return a Favorable report.

Thank you,

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