

Favorable Report: SB 149 - RENEW (Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather) Act.



TO: Chair Brian J. Feldman and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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Quaker Voice of Maryland, an advocacy group representing Quakers throughout Maryland, strongly supports **SB 149 - RENEW (Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather) Act.**

Quakers deeply believe in the stewardship of the Earth, viewing it as a sacred gift from God. We consider it our responsibility to care for all of creation. Global climate change is real and poses huge threats to life as we know it on earth. It is vitally important, particularly at this time, that Maryland continues to make progress on and expand our clean energy goals.

The RENEW Act supports these clean energy goals by establishing a stream of non-tax revenue to support and expand local and state wide efforts to adapt and mitigate major repetitive destructive weather events such as flooding, sea level rise, extended draught, salt water intrusion, and ongoing health issues such as asthma, and lack of adequate shelter, heat and cooling that result in significant negative impacts on the health of Marylanders and the state's economy.

These non-tax revenues would support programs managed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) related to climate change, the environment, natural resources, energy, utilities, resiliency, disaster recovery, housing, transportation, economic development, and health. It is important that the revenue be allocated to various programs addressing different community challenges.

Quaker Voice of Maryland strongly supports passage of SB149 and asks that members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee to join us in that support.

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