



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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County Executive

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SB 149 – Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025

POSITION: Favorable
DATE: February 13, 2025
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

On behalf of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, I urge the Economic Matters Committee for a favorable report for SB 149 - Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025.

Frederick County has experienced firsthand the severe impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, drought, intense storms, and flooding. In 2023 and 2024, our farmers faced significant hardships due to prolonged drought conditions, and the County has also endured damaging storms that have stressed our infrastructure and economy. The need for climate adaptation and resilience efforts is urgent, as extreme weather events continue to increase in frequency and intensity.

The RENEW Act is a vital piece of legislation that would create a Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Fund through a one-time fee on large fossil fuel companies responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions. The funds raised would support local climate programs, including stormwater management, infrastructure upgrades, and flood prevention initiatives, helping communities like ours prepare for the worsening impacts of climate change.

This bill also prioritizes investments in overburdened communities that have faced the brunt of pollution and climate-related challenges. With broad public support for these types of policies, the RENEW Act offers an important funding mechanism to help Maryland build resilience and protect vulnerable communities.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 149.