



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

**Bill:** SB0149 - The Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act  
**Hearing Date:** February 13, 2025  
**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Hester  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Submitting:** Liz Feighner for HoCo Climate Action  
**Position:** Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Howard County Climate Action supports **SB0149, The RENEW Act**, which will bring new revenue into the state by charging large, out of state fossil fuel companies a one time penalty for their historical emissions for the damage they have caused.

Howard County has had 2 major deadly flooding events in 2016 and 2018 due to the effects of the climate chaos. The price of a flood prevention project, the "extended north tunnel", in Ellicott City has skyrocketed to \$141.5 million and it keeps rising and it will be the largest expenditure in the history of our county. Lives were lost and businesses were destroyed all due to the harm caused by the large fossil fuel companies while they knew for decades the damage they were causing.

The bill directs the state to conduct an analysis of how much climate impacts are costing Maryland, then directs the state to require large out-of-state fossil fuel companies to pay that amount to Maryland. The one time payment will only apply to companies that have emitted more than \$1 billion tons of carbon cumulatively between 1994 and 2023. That is a short list of companies, none of which are based in Maryland.

We urge a **favorable report on SB0149**.

Howard County Climate Action  
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