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Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) was created as a body politic and corporate instrumentality of state in 2008 through an act of the Maryland General Assembly.

MCEC focuses on an economic development mission to advance the adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and technologies with associated jobs, wages, and tax revenue for Maryland. MCEC leverages private capital and private sector capabilities; facilitates the commercialization of innovative advanced energy technologies; implements climate justice initiatives, strives to reduce energy costs for consumers, and drives reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuels.

SB0149 – Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025
Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment / Finance Committees
Recommendation: FAVORABLE REPORT

MCEC supports the intent and purpose of this legislation and applauds efforts to provide a source of revenue for State entities to address climate change effects on the environment and the health of Maryland citizens. The establishment of the Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Payment Program in the Department of the Environment would allow MCEC to continue investing in projects throughout the State that contribute to climate adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 created the Climate Catalytic Capital (C3) Fund with \$5M of funding allocated in the Governor’s Budget for three years, beginning in FY 2024, and the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) as administrator for the fund. The C3 Fund is governed by an Investment Oversight Committee appointed by the MCEC Board of Directors and chaired by Comptroller Brooke Lierman. MCEC has been working for over a year developing a strategy, application process, and criteria for the selection of projects for the C3 Fund, as well as the use of public funds to attract greater private capital for projects designed to mitigate the effects of climate change through greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate adaptation.

The program revenue proposed in SB0149 would extend the C3 Fund beyond the current sunset at the end of FY 2026 with a viable funding mechanism.

As the statewide green bank, MCEC has demonstrated experience managing loan programs, including the Clean Energy Advantage Loan Program for homeowners, the Maryland Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loan program serving commercial and nonprofit entities, and the Maryland Clean Energy Capital Program (MCAP) financing projects for municipal and institutional entities. **MCEC is proactively pursuing federal and philanthropic grant resources that could effectively be combined with revenue from the proposed Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Payment Program to assist organizations with clean energy and resilience improvement measures.**

MCEC urges a favorable report and thanks Senator Hester for her leadership in sponsoring this legislation.