



Bill: SB 149 / HB 128- Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions (MCIES) a coalition of corporations, associations, and labor organizations advocating for the inclusivity of all energy types, including natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, propane, and nuclear power, write to express our opposition to Senate Bill 149 and House Bill 128.

Natural gas is critical for Marylanders who use it to heat their homes and cook their food. It is also essential to Maryland's manufacturing, biotechnology, education, and healthcare sectors. Imposing additional financial burdens on this sector may hinder economic growth and deter industries to the State.

Natural gas plays a vital role in ensuring the reliability and resilience of Maryland's energy grid, especially during extreme weather events. PJM, the organization responsible for managing the power grid in 13 states and Washington, D.C., cautions that electricity demand will outpace supply over the next decade¹. Policy-driven shifts to electrification, the retirement of existing energy sources, and the slow pace of bringing renewable projects online underscore the need for a balanced approach to decarbonizing our energy systems.

Maryland's natural gas infrastructure is advancing low-carbon fuels like Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) and hydrogen into the state's energy portfolio. Advancements in the production and delivery of biogas have proven effective in reducing CO₂ and methane emissions from hard-to-decarbonize sectors. Electrification as a sole decarbonization strategy is unrealistic and ill-advised.

In fact, the MD Commission on Climate Change recommended² that the Maryland General Assembly commission a study of the current and projected costs of anthropogenic climate change in Maryland. This should be done and analyzed before any legislation is passed.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an unfavorable vote. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at SPeters@hbstrategies.us.

Sincerely,
Sarah Peters, Executive Director

¹ <https://insidelines.pjm.com/pjm-publishes-2024-long-term-load-forecast/>

²

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202024/MCCC_Annual_Report_2024_508.pdf