

## Testimony in Support of SB0149

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee, hearing 2/13/25

Submitted on 2/11/25

To All Committee Members,

My name is Ray Earnest; I live in Caroline County, and I urge a favorable report on SB0149

This Bill will provide a funding source for achieving Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction goals. One of the biggest impediments to meeting our goals is the price tag. We already have budget constraints, and no one wants to raise taxes. Further, there are a lot of environmental and transportation projects that are already draining the funding we currently have.

This bill would require fossil fuel companies -- the source of major greenhouse gas emissions who have made, and continue to make, billions of dollars by selling fossil fuels in Maryland -- to pay their fair share of the remediation costs by precluding them from passing the costs of remediation along to Marylanders. The funding mechanism specified in this bill would raise an estimated \$900 million a year for 10 years.

Funds received from fossil fuel companies would be used to support the purchase of grid scale batteries, low-income energy efficiency, flood mitigation, retrofitting homes with electric technology, and funding for addressing minority health disparities among other programs.

I support this bill because I am very worried about climate change, which already is wreaking havoc with the weather world-wide, fueling, among other problems, horrible storms, dreadful fires, horrendous floods and unsupportable migration. Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give SB0149 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Ray Earnest

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