



# PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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**Bill Title:** SB0149 Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025

**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)

**To:** Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

**From:** Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst, Progressive Maryland

On behalf of Progressive Maryland, I urge a **favorable report on SB0149 Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**. Passing the RENEW Act will relieve Maryland taxpayers from the financial burden of adapting to climate change, and help the state address our budget shortfall without requiring that Marylanders pay an additional cent in taxes or energy costs.

Right now, extreme weather events are driving up costs for Marylanders and contributing to the state budget crisis. Annapolis is spending over \$50 million to upgrade their dock due to chronic flooding; Baltimore City is paying to install air conditioning in public schools like City College because of hotter weather; Howard County is spending over \$228 million to combat flooding in Ellicott City; and similar costs afflict nearly every jurisdiction across the state. These costs are all borne by Maryland tax payers, and are a direct result of climate change.

The RENEW Act relieves taxpayers of this financial burden and forces out-of-state fossil fuel companies to pay for the cost of adapting to climate change, while ensuring that those companies are unable to pass those costs onto consumers.

SB0149 directs the state to conduct an analysis of how much anthropogenic 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.

As an organization committed to uplifting and advocating on behalf of low-income, Black and Brown communities, we recognize the disproportionate impacts these communities face as a result of climate exacerbation. Those who are disproportionately bearing the burden of climate change through no action of their own should not be paying the cost. We kindly request that you pass the RENEW Act as this bill will relieve taxpayers from rising costs and protect Marylanders from worsening impacts of climate change. We urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Iman Habib**

Climate Policy Analyst, Progressive Maryland