



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401
Email: eee437@comcast.net

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
and Members of the Committee on Education, Energy and Environment
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB0149** – Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025 – **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes SB0149 because the compensatory payments required from fossil fuel companies are the equivalent to extortion. The payments are to fund an expanded environmental enforcement arm of State government, pay for pet government programs (such as emission-free school bus fund), and for loans to favored non-profits. The State holds itself harmless for its actions in using those fossil fuel products, licensing the “evil” businesses, and permitting the sale of fossil fuel products it deems liable for greenhouse gas emissions under SB0149.

The stated purpose of SB0149 is to secure compensatory payments from fossil fuel businesses based on a standard of strict liability (without regard to fault) for actions in the covered period of 1994 through 2023. Just as criminal law cannot be applied retroactively, targeting an entire segment of our economy for blame and assessing monetary damages is unacceptable and quite possibly unconstitutional. This is especially egregious when the negative impacts of fossil fuels on greenhouse gases were not known during much of the 30-year covered period.

The sole purpose of this legislation is to provide a revenue source for the State’s efforts to (1) adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, including climate change adaptive or mitigation infrastructure projects within the State, and (2) to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations.

“Entity” is defined as any individual, trustee, agent, partnership, association, corporation, company, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other person, including a foreign nation, that holds or held an ownership interest in a fossil fuel business during the covered period. It appears that “entity” could include individuals or retirement funds that own shares of stock in a fossil fuel business charged under this legislation. If so, it could adversely affect many Marylanders’ financial stability.

This is not the right approach to funding environmental or other government programs. Please give **HB0149** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women