



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Support Senate Bill 149 - Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather –
RENEW Act of 2025
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 13, 2025**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of Senate Bill 149, which establishes a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Fund. This fund will support state and local efforts to adapt to and/or mitigate the effects of climate change and to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. The need for significant additional resources at the state and local levels to make our communities more resilient and to address the impacts of climate change is real, and it is urgent.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed municipality of about 18,000 residents that is 2.4 square miles in size and is located within Montgomery County. About half our residents are homeowners and half renters, with a wide range of incomes. In Takoma Park, as across the state, climate change has brought us heavy rains, strong winds, heat waves and storms which are becoming more frequent, more intense, more damaging, and more costly for both residents and local governments.

Our city is not alone in this. Older stormwater systems can no longer keep up with the heaviest rains, creating dangerous flooding conditions that affect city and State owned roads and public spaces. Temporary streams now form rapidly on a regular basis, causing road and property damage and creating safety hazards. Fallen trees, weakened by the effects of climate change, can have devastating results for roads, businesses, homes and vehicles, and leave communities without electricity for hours and sometimes days at a time. Our most vulnerable city residents, like residents across the state, also bear the brunt of climate change impacts with health impacts and higher energy cost burdens.

The City, along with the State and other communities statewide, does not have the resources to design and install the additional infrastructure and protections we need to stay safe, or to address damage of this magnitude, or to assist residents – especially lower income residents – to recovery from or help prevent such impact.

Despite all our efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, it is already here. We need to adapt, and rapidly. A recent City-sponsored stormwater resilience study by Low Impact Development Center estimated costs up to \$4.6 million for just the ten most necessary projects to address current flooding issues, beyond the City's already robust stormwater management program costs.

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More resources are needed to address this pressing situation. Even in a fiscally challenging budget year, these funds must be provided somehow. The City supports the concept of a one-time payment by large fossil fuel companies to raise revenue for this needed infrastructure. This legislation would take important steps towards ensuring that the costs of climate change adaptation and mitigation are borne, at least in part, by the responsible parties.

This bill will help us meet our city, county and state greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. It also addressed climate-driven City infrastructure, housing, and environmental protection needs, as well as our City's equity goals and priorities. Our City climate action framework specifically addresses increased resiliency measure as well as greenhouse gas reductions.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports Senate Bill 149, and encourages a favorable committee vote.

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