



Support the ReNEW Act (SB0149)

Dear Members of the Senate Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee,

We are the [Maryland Just Power Alliance](#), a coalition of 3 non-partisan community power organizations: [Anne Arundel Connecting Together \(ACT\)](#), [Action in Montgomery \(AIM\)](#), and [People Acting Together in Howard \(PATH\)](#), representing tens of thousands of Maryland residents. We organize people in congregations, schools, and neighborhoods to build power for policies that make our communities more just and livable for everyone. We are asking you to support the ReNEW Act (SB0149) in your Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee at the hearing on February 13.

As part of the Beyond Gas coalition with Interfaith Power and Light and the Sierra Club, our organization's team of tenant leaders has conducted hundreds of tests of NO₂ gas levels emitted from residents' gas stoves, and published a [study](#) showing that over 50% of the 394 homes tested in Maryland had unhealthy levels of NO₂ gas. These numbers are based on the EPA's standards for outdoor air quality. NO₂ causes asthma and other respiratory illnesses, and affects brain development in children. We are committed to improving our communities' health by funding upgrades to clean energy in homes, which is why we support the ReNEW Act.

The ReNEW Act (Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather) will respond to climate change by fining the largest fossil fuel polluters a one-time fee. The funds raised will help with climate change adaptation and mitigation, including energy efficiency and electrification upgrades in homes and multi-family apartment buildings that will benefit our communities' health. We want to make sure that no communities, particularly low-income communities, communities of color, or renters are left behind as we implement improvements to address our climate crisis. The funding will also help our communities prepare for and respond to extreme weather. It is important to us that you pass this bill through your committee.

Maryland has made bold commitments to be a leader on climate change, but needs to follow through on those commitments. This is the time to act boldly, and we are looking to you to vote for ReNEW and address the infrastructure, health, and upgrades ReNEW would provide to benefit our state in multiple ways for all of its residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Maryland Just Power Alliance



**ACTION IN
MONTGOMERY**



**PEOPLE ACTING
TOGETHER IN HOWARD**



**ANNE ARUNDEL
CONNECTING TOGETHER**