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Governor | Wes Moore Lt. Governor | Aruna Miller Secretary | Russell J. Strickland

March 12, 2025

Chair Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes to **provide updated fiscal note information on HB 340 - Climate Change - Attorney General Actions, Climate Change Restitution Fund, and Climate Change Restitution Fund Advisory Council** based on amendments drafted by the sponsor.

Based on the first reader language, the Climate Restitution Fund Advisory Council and reporting requirements would have required significant fiscal investment prior to any revenue supporting the Fund, and resulted in MDEM's significant fiscal note to stand up the Council and the Fund.

Delegate Ruth's amendments (attached) to remove the Climate Restitution Fund Advisory Council and its reporting requirements will reduce MDEM's fiscal note impact on the general fund. While the fiscal note to administer the Fund would remain, the language allows the Department to use the Fund for the programmatic and administrative costs associated with the Fund. MDEM would await Fund program and administrative development until revenues were available in order to support the effort, eliminating the fiscal impact on the general fund and relying fully on the Fund revenue to sustain its program management and administrative costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:
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