



**Delaware-Maryland Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the  
**Economic Matters Committee**  
&  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
on  
**House Bill 33**  
February 18, 2021  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify about good stewardship of the natural world. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community of congregations in three ELCA synods, located in every part of the State.

Our community named greenhouse gas emissions a detriment to the natural world in 1993. Time has, we maintain, validated that observation.

**House Bill 33** aims to achieve reductions in GHG by capturing revenue from emission sources (fuel commodities and machinery) and applying it to appropriate goals for their reduction.

In general, levies on commercial activity subsidized by cost-shifting levels revenue policy. Carbon-taxing has gained advocates because it more accurately prices economic costs that are being socialized to the public; and because it can defray cost associated with transition to more cost-effective energy supply. The cost of climate change will exceed the cost of transition to a carbon-neutral energy regime.

We note that our community also supports the Blueprint and Kirwan Commission goals of equitable Maryland education funding.

We continue to urge that renewables be brought into the Maryland energy portfolio rapidly, paired with reduction of current GHG emitting sources. It will slow the rapid rate of earth warming now altering weather, oceans, and geography. Consumers, communities, and climate all benefit.

We ask a favorable report.

Thank you for this hearing.

Lee Hudson