



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

Testimony prepared for the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
on
Senate Bill 414
January 28, 2021
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of wise stewardship of resources with sustainable energy consumption. 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.

Sustainability is a measurable standard we advocate for energy production and consumption, within our community and in public life. We have supported expanding renewable sources in the Maryland energy portfolio since 2002. Time has validated that stance. Renewables are competitive on cost, less expensive if environmental detriment is calculated, and not subject to commodity price pressures. And they do not produce greenhouse gas.

Greenhouse gas emissions are surpassing what the known environment can tolerate. Climate, food, safety, civic and economic life are at risk, here and around the globe. The human community must now rapidly employ policy instruments for diminishing the catastrophic. The cost of attending to climate disasters already exceeds the cost of a new energy regime. That calculation only gets worse from now on.

We support accelerating the rate at which renewables are brought to the Maryland energy market, as we have done previously. Increasing renewables lowers energy cost by scaling new generation capacity. It may slow rapid earth warming now altering weather, the seas, and geography. Consumers, communities, and earth's climate all benefit.

We support Senate Bill 414 because it accelerates the measure and the rate at which these sources will count in Maryland's energy market. And we implore your favorable report.

Thank you for this hearing.

Lee Hudson