



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Environment & Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 204
January 27, 2021
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about care for the natural world that all life shares. 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 with congregations in three synods in every part of the State. Our faith community has advocated care of creation since 1993, often in the context of Maryland State policy.

We teach that care of creation is an act of devotion and gratitude to the Giver of natural gifts. As a result, we believe responsible stewardship of natural gifts is an ethical mandate; that we are called to preserve what is, conserve what is needed, and restore what has been spoiled.

We support House Bill 204 because it can improve existing Maryland regulation for care of its natural environment. The bill creates more directive administrative responsibility for the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of the Environment than at present, by strengthening reporting and enforcement procedures.

Good environmental law is only as good as its implementation and enforcement. House Bill 204 strengthens recording of data and fosters transparency with better public reporting.

The environment is a public good that must be protected by, and in the public. We ask for your favorable report.

Lee Hudson