



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

Testimony prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
&
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 583
February 11, 2021
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of wise stewardship of natural resource. 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 commitment. 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 rapidly employ policies to diminish catastrophic consequence. The cost of doing nothing, or little, already exceeds the cost of slowing the rate of planet warming. That calculation only gets worse from now on.

We continue to support accelerating the rate at which renewables are brought to the Maryland energy market. Increasing renewables will lower energy cost by scaling new generation capacity. It can slow the rapid rate of earth warming now altering weather, oceans, and geography. Consumers, communities, and earth's climate all benefit.

We support **House Bill 583** because it accelerates the measure and the rate at which these sources must count in Maryland's energy market; also, because it contemplates a public program of carbon sequestration; and because it will lower energy demand through efficiency and conservation effects. We implore a favorable report.

Thank you for this hearing.

Lee Hudson