



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 1035
March 2, 2023
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify about an energy regime that helps care for creation by accelerating decarbonization. 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 in three jurisdictions across our State.

The text of **House Bill 1035** includes the reason for our support: *THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS: (1) AMONG THE LEAST EXPENSIVE WAYS TO MEET THE ENERGY DEMANDS OF THE STATE; (2) A MEANS OF AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, AND CLEAN ENERGY FOR CONSUMERS OF MARYLAND; AND (3) ONE METHOD TO ACHIEVE MARYLAND'S CLIMATE COMMITMENTS FOR REDUCING STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE SPECIFIED IN TITLE 2, SUBTITLE 12 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.* We concur with all three of these objectives, for the sake of the creation.

Lowered energy costs for consumers can be a benefit of energy demand strategies. So, **House Bill 1035** also addresses an affordable housing concern we hold. Energy is essential for adequate housing. We know now that lowering energy consumption also lowers a housing cost.

House Bill 1035 would make well-understood efficiency-strategy products available to more utility service customers. The PSC, and DHCD as a property manager, would have administrative roles for developing, deploying, assessing, monitoring, and servicing efficiency plans applied to State systems and customer markets. The Bill's material involvements are laid, appropriately, on both sides of the consumption meter.

In order to meet the targets of the Climate Solutions Act decarbonizing of the energy sector, all appropriate agencies and their resources will have to be engaged in the mission. We therefore implore your favorable report.

Lee Hudson