



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Judicial Proceedings Committee
on
Senate Bill 49
February 8, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to support a cleaner energy future in Maryland by expanding renewables in its production regime. 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 within three judicatories across our State.

My community publicly supported a cleaner energy future in its 1993 statement on the environment, "Caring for Creation." We are called to advocate for reductions of current and future greenhouse gas emissions through public policies that influence energy demand and consumption.

Following the 2022 Maryland Climate Solutions Act and the federal Inflation Reduction Act, the time to implement an energy regime transition is here. Increasing clean, renewable electric energy production is a good policy for achieving that goal. And getting more power from the sun is achievable, feasible, and relatively simple when there is consumer interest in residential solar.

The similar *House Bill 639* passed with considerable support in the House during the 2023 session. It was not voted on in Judicial Proceedings before the end of that session.

Senate Bill 49 will clarify "significant" to mean a restriction that causes cost to exceed 5% of an original installation proposal, or a loss of efficiency greater than 10% of an original design. Current law says that an unreasonable restriction is one that "significantly" increases the cost or reduces the efficiency.

Senate Bill 49 is mere clarification and merits your favorable report.

Lee Hudson