



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
on
Senate Bill 613
February 28, 2023
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.

We favor making Maryland's Community Solar Energy Generating Systems pilot a permanent policy, as **Senate Bill 613** will do. Following the 2022 Maryland Climate Solutions Act and the federal Inflation Reduction Act, the time to implement energy regime reform is here. Increasing clean, renewable electric energy production is a good policy to achieve that goal. And getting more power from the sun is achievable, feasible, and relatively simple through the naturally occurring incentive of consumer interest in residential solar.

Clean the air and keep the lights on and give **Senate Bill 613** your favorable report.

Lee Hudson