



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
and the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 310
February 15, 2023
Position: **Favorable**

Misterrs Chairmen and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify about affordable housing and an energy regime that helps care for creation. 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.

Lowering energy costs for consumers is a benefit of transitioning to carbon-reduction energy policies. Years ago, Baltimore Gas and Electric testified in the Maryland General Assembly that loss of Maryland's robust efficiency programs contributed to spikes in utility costs, as a result of the deregulation of its energy market (Senate Finance, 2007). Price volatility was substituted for energy management and at least one result was to offer up low- and moderate-income households to price shocks.

Energy is essential for adequate housing, another concern of our community. We know now that lowering energy consumption also lowers one cost of housing, while lowering carbon emissions.

House Bill 310 would advance both goals, carbon reductions and adequate housing, by prioritizing at least forty percent of authorized State spending on energy efficiency programs and investments for low- and moderate-income households. We support this because the prioritized inventory would likely be a last-served market segment. Necessary GGRs will be slowed as a result.

We have long held that efficiency is one of the better ways to achieve lower cost and lower greenhouse gas emissions. For both reasons, and because more adequate housing may result, we support **House Bill 310** and urge a favorable report.

Lee Hudson