



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Environment and Transportation
and the
Economic Matters Committees
on
House Bill 1134
March 8, 2023
Position: **Favorable**

Misters Chairmen, and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to support advancing a net-zero energy regime in Maryland's building performance standards. 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 with three synods in every part of our State.

"Caring for Creation" (ELCA, 1993) leads our community to advocate for and support public policy to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector. Energy sourcing in residential and commercial buildings is a predictor of future greenhouse gas emissions. Our witness is that we are running out of time to make a transition to a net-zero future.

Maryland's robust construction market should not be built to carbon-dependent standards. Transitioning to an inventory that uses less energy and produces less carbon emissions will facilitate GGRs. Building additional carbon-intense structures only increases the time, expense, and effort it will require to transition later. Moving the inventory toward all-electric and expanding renewable energy supply is the right way to build ourselves out of the warming/climate crisis we've built ourselves into.

We hold that lowering carbon emissions is a social, economic, and moral necessity for the obvious reasons; fire, drought, floods, sea rise, human displacement, storm catastrophe, infrastructure vulnerability. **House Bill 1134** is an actual plan for carbon emissions reductions using State permitting for future construction.

We concur that "The Department (*of Labor*) shall adopt by regulation, as the Maryland Building Performance Standards, the International Building Code, including the International Energy Conservation Code..." (HB1134, pg.1). "Meeting *all energy demands without the use of fossil fuels*" is the right building standard for Maryland to adopt. We support this policy and urge a favorable report.

Lee Hudson