



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Economic Matters Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 839**  
March 2, 2023  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify about an energy regime to 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 judicatories across our State.

We hold that lowering carbon emissions is a social, economic, and moral necessity for the obvious reasons; fire, drought, flood, sea rise, human displacement, storm catastrophe, infrastructure vulnerability. The *Climate Solutions Act* of 2022 accelerated GGR targets in Maryland, calling forth a policy emphasis to accelerate the strategies of energy sector actors' and its market customers' participation in the efforts to meet them. Our understanding of **House Bill 839** is that it would direct those with the means to facilitate the desired outcomes.

The PSC, as regulator of utility service, would require service providers to participate in a pilot program initiative to test the feasibility of coaching the energy market toward all-electric. The purpose, of course, is to get to that goal sooner.

We concur with this: it is a requirement of the global climate crisis that we get to net-zero, fast, feasibly and sustainably. We understand that the human community is within years, not centuries, of climate catastrophe; warming sufficient to disrupt much planetary population distribution, collapse social structure, and bring about a reversion to subsistence life. We can avert the worst if and only if we do all we can, with all we know how, as soon as possible. Making an effort toward that objective with a reasonable policy experiment seems like the least necessary.

To meet the targets of the Climate Solutions Act and decarbonize the Maryland energy sector, all appropriate agencies and all their resources have to be engaged in the mission. We therefore implore a favorable report on **House Bill 839**.

Lee Hudson