



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

Testimony prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
&
Environment and Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 516
February 29, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairmen and members of these Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify about environmental justice. 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 of congregations in three ELCA synods, located in every part of the State.

Our community named greenhouse gas emissions as pollutants in 1993. Time has, we maintain, validated that classification.

House Bill 516 aims to capture revenue from greenhouse gas emission sources for a fund to address climate catastrophes. The summer of 2023 should be sufficient to illustrate what a “catastrophe” is.

In general, levies on commercial activity currently subsidized by cost-shifting, levels revenue policy. A fee on greenhouse gas emissions based on the price they levy upon the natural- and built-environment is the only accurate way to establish their actual cost, For some time the cost of climate disaster has exceeded the cost of energy regime transition, anyway.

We’re taxing society for the benefit of a commercial exercise. That will only make the future worse. We ask a favorable report.

Lee Hudson