



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

Testimony prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 168
February 7, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify for wise stewardship of the gifts of the natural world, and cognizance of the public good of public health and safety 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 judicatories in every part of Maryland.

Our community advocates for public policies that protect and preserve the given, created goodness. We support efforts to restrict polluting and degrading the commons known as the environment.

Our support for **House Bill 168** is based on an understanding that it can prevent trashing of the natural world by reducing blight in landscapes, watersheds, and public spaces with what is among the most ubiquitous consumer products on the planet: plastics. It is essentially trash waiting to be discarded.

There are other options. **House Bill 168** requires material content of plastics to be manufactured for compatibility with recycling standards, repurposing what is now an end-product that's land-filled.

We believe that to be a good goal, with a public good of cleaner, safer environments. We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson