



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Appropriations Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 210**  
February 14, 2024  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to support advancing a net-zero energy regime in Maryland's building inventory. 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.

Our community has supported green energy since 1993. We have advocated energy regime change in Maryland since 2004.

**House Bill 210** would add, *as part of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, a requirement that new buildings meet all energy demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels and an electric-ready standard for certain buildings.*

We assert that the public interest in reducing greenhouse gas emissions arrived at least in the aughts and that public policy is tardy and deficient in the task of GGR. **House Bill 210** comes nearer fulfilling the spirit and letter of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, which we supported, than doing too little or nothing about mitigating climate catastrophes.

Adding an environmental objective to regulation of Maryland's prospective building inventory will assist scaling technologies and constructing a greener energy future. The human activities that keep us from being green are identified to be industrial production, utility services (which this bill will influence), and transportation. We need better public policies for all three segments. **House Bill 210** presents one rational way to address at least one of them.

We urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson