



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 398
February 6, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify about an energy regime that will advance the State's commitments made in CSAN 2022. 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 have advocated for clean energy in Maryland since the electric utility market was privatized in 1998. One result of that policy choice was to make dirty energy an adversary of green energy.

The changed federal energy policy universe has returned that story to headline news. Ramped up demand for electricity from commercial tech and accommodation of continued population growth have become challenges and impediments to the goals of CSAN. To meet the challenges and overcome the impediments, Maryland will need to make rational policy adjustment to its public energy regime.

House Bill 398 proposes a cluster of adjustments we support based on our decades-long advocacy for clean energy in Maryland. Readily available practices on the demand side will no longer get the State where it needs to be on the supply side to keep up with demand.

Utilities and their regulator, the PSC need to be practitioners of clean-energy expansion. New energy production resources and connectivity planning are needed next steps to secure Maryland's energy future. The emphasis on new technology for electricity storage in **House Bill 398** is welcome because it promises to facilitate additional supply from existing generation capacity.

To meet targets for Maryland's decarbonization project, all appropriate agencies and resources have to be engaged in the mission. We therefore implore your favorable report for this bill.

Lee Hudson