



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. We supported the Climate Solutions Act Now iterations.

House Bill 212 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 decades ago and that public policy has been deficient since. **House Bill 212** comes nearer fulfilling the spirit and letter of policy established in CSAN. We're still doing too little, or nothing, about mitigating climate catastrophe.

Adding an environmental objective to regulation of Maryland's prospective building inventory will assist scaling technologies by constructing a green energy future that cannot backslide into further atmosphere carbonization. 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 212** presents one rational way to address at least one of them.

We urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson