



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Environment and Transportation Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 1496**  
March 12, 2025  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify for expanding a clean and green 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.

Energy sourcing is critical in the built context because it stands to be instrumental for a decarbonized future. That was the goal of the Climate Solutions Act Now of 2022, which we supported. Our community has supported policies for such a transition since 1993. The transportation sector is where a lot of carbon is emitted, and, thus, where there is opportunity for decarbonizing.

EVs and PHEVs have grown more popular with consumers and will become more widely accepted with a reliable network of available charging stations. The most efficient—from the perspectives of scaling and friction—to achieve a rapid expansion of charging stations is to access the permitting process for construction and include charging stations in new, and renovation building. This is already done for public utility infrastructure and the most frictionless method for scaling would be to regard charging stations as a standard element of Maryland's public utility milieu. It should not present any fundamental, philosophic policy conflicts.

Maryland's robust construction market should not be built to carbon dependent standards. Transitioning to any inventory that produces less carbon emissions is necessary for accelerating GGRs. Building additional carbon-intense structures only increases the time, expense, and effort for a transition. Moving the transportation sector nearer to all-electric is the right way to build ourselves out of the climate-catastrophe we've built ourselves into.

We hold that lowering carbon emissions is a social, economic, and moral necessity for the obvious reasons: fire, draught, flooding, sea rise, human displacement, infrastructure vulnerability, indemnification. We support **House Bill 1496** because it is an actual plan for carbon emissions reductions. Our concern for the environmental health and safety of our Maryland neighbors, and a livable and sustainable future for all the earth compels our support and we implore your favorable report.

Lee Hudson