



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 973
February 26, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support caring for creation with a decarbonizing energy policy. 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 our State.

House Bill 973 will require the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt electric- and solar-ready standards for *existing* buildings undergoing renovation. The later inventory has been at risk for exception in the process of decarbonizing to net-zero.

The standards return to the established International Building and the International Energy Conservation Codes as in CSAN goals. Use of the Department of Labor permitting authority ensures that standards become uniform across the built inventory and will scale them for capacity and cost, which is the real goal of having a standard.

We like this bill for what it will do for the atmospheric decarbonizing project that we hold is an obligation for public good expense and safety risk in the commons. And we are urging your favorable report.

Lee Hudson