



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

Testimony prepared for the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
on
Senate Bill 926
February 19, 2020
Position: Favorable

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of wise stewardship of resources within a sustainable consumption ethos. 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 of congregations in three ELCA synods, located in every part of the State.

Sustainability, not exploitation, is a standard we advocate for both production and consumption, within our community and in public life. We have supported expanding renewable sources in the Maryland energy portfolio since 2002. Time has validated the requirement for that policy. Greenhouse gas emissions are currently past what the known environment will survive. Food sources, public safety, and economic life are globally at risk of failure.

The ELCA agreed that greenhouse gases and their effect on climate is an environmental threat in a social teaching adopted at national assembly in 1993 ("Caring for Creation," ELCA, 1993). Since then, climate has descended into the current crisis. Governments and commerce did not do the right things when that could have been averted. Now we must recruit policy instruments rapidly to diminish the catastrophic. The cost of addressing climate disasters is far past the cost of doing what it is required. It will get worse than that soon.

We support accelerating the rate at which renewables are brought to the Maryland energy market, as we have done previously. Increasing renewables will lower energy costs by advancing the investment needed to scale new sources. We support Senate Bill 926 because it accelerates the measure and the rate at which these sources will count in Maryland's energy market. We therefore implore your favorable report.

Thank you for this hearing.

Lee Hudson