



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Environment & Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 21
January 29, 2021
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about care for the creation. 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 congregations in three synods in every part of the State.

We believe care of creation is an act of gratitude to the Giver of the natural world, and that stewardship of natural gifts is an ethical mandate. We are called to preserve what is, conserve what is needed, and restore what has been spoiled.

House Bill 21 proscribes an assortment of industrial processes for elimination and conversion of plastic products. Plastic is an exigent environmental problem; waste, disposal, and toxicity to name three public health and safety issues.

Addressing them by burning, converting, or otherwise synthesizing plastics only shifts deleterious effects into more contexts. Public authorization of those processes as recycling is not helpful because it is harmful. It is just another environmental degradation.

Therefore, we support House Bill 21 and ask a favorable report.

Lee Hudson