



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Economic Matters Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 793**  
March 6, 2023  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to bear witness to goodness in the natural world. 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 scattered across the landscape of our State.

Our faith community adopted a teaching document in 1993 about caring for the created world ("Caring for Creation," ELCA). It advocates an ethos of stewardship of natural gifts on behalf of sustainable and equitable blessings from creation. In it, greenhouse gases are identified as an environmental threat to created goodness because of their deleterious effect on climate. We have supported reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating renewable energy sources in the Maryland energy portfolio before the General Assembly for several decades. We supported development of offshore wind farming for energy production since the prospect emerged during the O'Malley administration. Last June we wrote in support of offshore wind in Maryland to BOEM.

Early concerns about environment, wildlife, and siting disposition appear to have concluded, and our understanding is that public comment indicated benefits exceed harms.

Our position is that greenhouse gas reduction is urgent because the opportunity to prevent the worst climate crises is rapidly disappearing. The cost of doing nothing already exceeds the cost of a carbon-neutral energy regime.

As the proposal reaches some close, **House Bill 793** iterates energy production requirements for issuance of State certification for any construction project. We concur. It also addresses the need to find an appropriate transmission solution to get the power onto the grid.

Inasmuch as we have a commitment to renewable energy in the Maryland portfolio, we support **House Bill 793** and ask a favorable report.

Lee Hudson