



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
on
Senate Bill 689
February 28, 2023
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify about an energy regime to care for creation by accelerating decarbonization. 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 in three judicatories across our State.

We hold that lowering carbon emissions is a social, economic, and moral necessity for the obvious reasons; fire, drought, flood, sea rise, human displacement, storm catastrophe, infrastructure vulnerability. The *Climate Solutions Act* of 2022 accelerated GGR targets in Maryland. The urgency of the necessary is already instructing us that we must do more, sooner. Most projections of GHG-related temperature rise have lagged behind the actual for several decades.

Senate Bill 689 would adjust the targets of the *Climate Solutions Act* by substituting greenhouse gas **emissions** for **energy use** targets in EmPOWER program goals. This will get the intent of the *Climate Solutions Act* more inline with the necessary goal.

We concur. Lowering energy demand alone is insufficient for the reductions to GHG required to address the climate crisis. Making **emissions** the measure improves the equation.

We urge your favorable report for **Senate Bill 689**.

Lee Hudson