



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 781
March 7, 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 to BOEM in support of offshore wind in Maryland.

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 costs of doing nothing exceed the costs of carbon-neutral energy.

Senate Bill 781 defines energy production values before issuance of State certification for any facility to be constructed in the State. It also addresses the need to find a transmission system to get the power onto the grid.

Inasmuch as we have a commitment to renewable energy in the Maryland portfolio, we support **Senate Bill 781** and ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson