



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Finance Committee**  
and the  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
on  
**Senate Bill 681**  
February 28, 2024  
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair, and Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify about caring for creation by decarbonizing the atmosphere. 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 caused temperature rise have fallen short of the actual for several decades.

**Senate Bill 681** supports the intent of the Climate Solutions Act of 2022 by requiring, before public approval and finance, an assessment that it will not increase vehicle miles traveled and resultant greenhouse gas emissions. Prospective projects would have to present mitigation plans to off-set carbon emissions elsewhere and otherwise, or be subject to cancellation.

We cannot avert the worst that is to come if we continue to buy assets for burning fossil fuel. This Bill will get the intent of the *Climate Solutions Act* more aligned with what is necessary.

We urge your favorable report for **Senate Bill 681**.

Lee Hudson