



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

Testimony prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 216
January 30, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about clean energy and good stewardship of created gifts. 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 three synods in every part of Maryland.

Lowering energy consumption also lowers consumer cost and benefits the meta-goal of carbon-reduction in energy production. We have supported energy efficiency and rapid transition to a clean energy regime in Maryland and across the United States for years as an act of the devotion of caring for creation.

House Bill 216 adjusts Maryland's legal parameters for condominium governance to encourage the deployment of clean, renewable energy sourcing in the common areas of condo developments. We are particularly attracted to the sponsor's observation at last year's bill hearing that this facilitation can take advantage of grants available to condo associations in the federal IRA.

Rapid transition to renewables is now a social, existential necessity. Getting clean energy consumption everywhere all at once may mitigate some of the many climate disasters ahead. It will also accelerate the scaling needed to keep energy affordable. We therefore urge a favorable report.

Lee Hudson