



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
on
House Bill 864
March 21, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify about an energy regime that helps 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.

The text of **House Bill 864** includes *SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION, EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY, EACH GAS COMPANY, AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH 7-223, 7-224, AND 7-225 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE EFFICIENT USE AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, DEMAND RESPONSE, AND BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION BY CONSUMERS, ELECTRIC COMPANIES, GAS COMPANIES, AND THE DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS AND TARGETS SPECIFIED IN TITLE 2, SUBTITLE 12 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.*

Lowered energy costs for consumers will be a benefit of energy consumption strategies. This will address an affordable housing concern we hold. Energy is essential for adequate housing. We know that lowering energy consumption also lowers a housing cost.

House Bill 864 would make recognized efficiency-strategy products available to more utility service customers. The PSC and DHCD as a property manager will have roles for developing, deploying, assessing, monitoring, and servicing efficiency plans applied to State public systems and customer markets. The bill's material involvements are, appropriately, on both sides of the consumption meter.

In order to meet targets in the Climate Solutions Act of 2022 for decarbonizing the energy sector, all interests and actors and their resources have to be engaged. We implore your favorable report.

Lee Hudson