



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Budget and Taxation Committee
on
Senate Bill 395
January 29, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, 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 obvious reasons; fire, drought, flood, sea rise, human displacement, storm catastrophe, infrastructure vulnerability.

The *Climate Solutions Act* of 2022 accelerated GGR targets in Maryland, which we have supported. The urgency of the necessary is that we must do more, sooner. Most projections of GHG caused temperature rise have fallen short of what is actually occurring. And, apparently, the federal government will now operate with a policy of eliminating GGR goals, and accelerate the rapidly approaching worst case effects.

Senate Bill 395 supports an intent of the *Climate Solutions Act* of 2022 by requiring, before public approval and finance, an assessment of the increase in vehicle miles traveled it would expedite, together with prospects for other, less carbon intense transportation projects that could be considered.

The worst fire and flood to come cannot be averted by expanding the carbonized economy. **Senate Bill 395** serves necessary State policy performance in current and future State transportation proposals, spending and projects to avoid more of the same.

We exhort a favorable report for the sake of all Maryland's people.

Lee Hudson