



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Budget and Taxation Committee
on
House Bill 84
March 27, 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, human safety.

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

House Bill 84 supports an intent of the *Climate Solutions Act* of 2022 by requiring, before public approval and finance, that there be an assessment of the increase in vehicle miles traveled it facilitates, together with prospects for other, less carbon intense transportation projects that should be considered. We support that policy intent.

The worst fire and flood to come cannot be averted by expanding the carbonized economy. And the economic cost is above catastrophic, like carbon's atmospheric events. **House Bill 84** serves the necessary State policy performance in its current and future transportation proposals, spending, and projects to avoid more of the same.

We exhort your favorable report for the sake of Maryland and its people.

Lee Hudson