



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

Testimony prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 1037
February 28, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to urge responsible public planning for energy demand coherent with Maryland's climate goals. 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 of three ELCA judicatories in every part of our State.

Our interest is meeting socially responsible energy needs with environmentally responsible energy production. A publicly developed plan to achieve decarbonized energy production, articulated as regulatory coherence, is a better procedural choice for policy than *per se* debate about this or that commercial advantage. Utilities, previously understood to be public, provide a public good to which all communities are obligated.

We like **House Bill 1037** because it appears to address flaws built into the privatization of the energy sector in 1999 and suggests a process to begin aggregating data and knowledge for rational public decision-making about commodified energy.

Our community can support a developed regulatory protocol to implement goals for a decarbonized energy sector sufficient to demand need. We understand **House Bill 1037** to be implementing that, and therefore, urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson