



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

Comment prepared for the  
**Economic Matters Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 1035**  
February 28, 2025  
Position: **as Comment**

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.

Unlike *House Bill 1037*, **House Bill 1035** would preemptively obligate rate payers to finance a commercial enterprise that is historically extremely expensive to fabricate in order to meet acceptable public safety requirements, and is *not* clean if its lethal wastes are included in its inherent risks and costs. We also understand what are being described as small modular reactors have not yet been proven to work as promised. It strikes us as a poor choice for trail-and-error experimentation. Given all the questions, this does not appear to address what is Maryland's urgent necessity to get started on clean energy production and transmission.

Lee Hudson