



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
on  
**Senate Bill 722**  
February 18, 2025  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify for stewardship of creation. 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 with three synods in every part of our State.

Our community addressed concern for a safe, healthy living planet that sustains life with "Caring for Creation" (ELCA, 1993). We are committed to protection, preservation, and restoration of natural gifts.

Our support for this bill is based on our understanding of what it can accomplish according to the fiscal note: *This bill addresses one of the recommendations included in the Ecological Restoration Permitting Study Report... Specifically, the report recommended that the General Assembly should adopt a definition for ecological restoration that is consistent with the definition included in the bill*

That authorized study has produced to a regulatory standard for restoration projects that may be undertaken in the State; perhaps with public permitting and financing. We concur with that goal to better ensure that environmental standards do as intended to preserve and remediate.

We ask your favorable report for **Senate Bill 722**.

Lee Hudson