



**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 10**  
February 13, 2025  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak about caring for 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 judicatories located in every part of our State.

The ELCA made stewardship of natural gifts a subject for the practice of faith in our community in 1993 ("Caring for Creation," ELCA). In addition to health and safety for all things living, decarbonizing became a goal of our public advocacy.

Biomasses are byproducts of several agricultural and natural resource industries, and thus renewable in some measure, they still generate greenhouse gas when burned. Burning them, while "renewable" in that expanded definition, still frustrates the effort to reduce carbon emissions.

Burning abundant material such as packaging retrieved from trash to produce energy eludes any rational, objective definition of "green". They are "renewable" only in that they remain plentiful. Burning trash will never produce clean energy.

Twenty years further on from its improbable inclusion in Maryland's renewable energy portfolio (included because it was leveraged as the only way to have a renewable portfolio) it's time to clean it up. We therefore support **Senate Bill 10** and urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson