



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 983
March 6, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to support a cleaner energy future in Maryland by facilitating more green energy production in Maryland. 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 within three judicatories across our State.

My community publicly supported a cleaner energy future in its 1993 statement on the environment, "Caring for Creation". We are called to advocate for reductions of current and future greenhouse gas emissions with public policies that influence energy consumption and production.

We have supported legislation in the Maryland General Assembly to advance a decarbonized future for decades. The *2022 Maryland Climate Solutions Act* committed Maryland's public decision-making to implement an energy transition, and we enthusiastically endorsed it. Increasing clean electric energy production is good policy to achieve that goal. And getting more power from the sun is feasible and increasingly popular as indicated by growing consumer interest in residential solar.

Despite what it has legislated, Maryland has repeatedly fallen behind its own clean energy goals. Between learnings about implementation and accelerating climate catastrophe events, it seems likely the State should do better. Making beneficial policy adjustments seems necessary. Getting more solar into the generation mix, a now cost-effective and immediately available choice, is a best-practice that could use more facilitation. We understand **Senate Bill 983** to do that by expanding the siting of solar at smaller scales.

As we have noted in testimony over decades, policies that are barriers to scaling green energy advance dirty energy. They favor the few by badly serving the whole with risk from climate catastrophe and its multitude costs. We continue to urge policies that facilitate as rapid a transition to cleaner energy as possible, here in Maryland and nationally.

Senate Bill 983 is incremental in ambition, but coherent in intention, and deserves your favorable report.

Lee Hudson