



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

Testimony prepared for the  
**Environment and Transportation Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 69**  
February 14, 2025  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify for stewardship of the natural world, with awareness of the public good of health and safety. 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 in every part of Maryland.

Our community advocates for public policies that protect and preserve the given goodness of earth. We support efforts to restrict pollution and degradation of the commons called the environment.

Our support for **House Bill 69** is based on its aspiration to prevent damage of the natural world by reducing trash in landscapes, wildlands, watersheds, and public spaces from a ubiquitous consumer product. Packaging is refuse and plastic is its material. Plastics essentially are trash produced to maintain a supply of garbage.

There are other packaging options. They could be advanced in the commercial context. **House Bill 69** proposes one such advancement. It requires the material content of plastics to be manufactured for compatibility with recycling standards, repurposing what is now an end-product destined for landfill; and further environmental pollution.

We believe that to be an appropriate policy goal with a public good of cleaner, safer environments. We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson