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Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Honorable Delegate Maggie McIntosh  
Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee  
6 Bladen Street, Room 121  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Good Afternoon, Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and members of this wonderful committee.

I am Delegate Williams and I am testifying in favor of House Bill 715.

I know that this committee is intimately familiar with the budget. Also everyone in this room knows that the main legislative priority this session is the implementation and funding for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. There have been a number of news reports about how we are going to pay for the recommendations from the Kerwin Commission. We still have not enacted legislation to ensure the funding that will be needed for the next 10 years to implement the Kerwin recommendations.

As stewards of the taxes that our constituents pay, we strive to ensure that the funds appropriated reflect our one of our highest priorities as a State, our children.

However, instead of talking about our children, I am here today talking to you about the MAGLEV project. According to the opponents of this bill MAGLEV is an effort to bring to high speed rail from DC to NY. Yet so far only the Governor of Maryland and the Mayor of the District of Columbia have provided their support for this project.

The opponents of this bill have stated at every public event that I have ever attended about this project that the Central Japan Railway Company is providing the funding for the construction of this project. Any comment about this bill killing the MAGLEV project runs in complete contradiction to what they have stated about the funding for this project. You cannot say that this is a NIMBY reaction when you have residents in multiple districts, almost 1/3 of the state expressing concerns about this project. Delegate Mike Rogers, from Anne Arundel County, and a co-sponsor is here in support of this bill today. This bill will not kill the MAGLEV project.

If the Northeast Maglev wishes to show that they are truly concern about the communities in which this project will impact, then they should stand with me in support of this legislation. However, instead they wish to ignore the concerns of the communities impacted by this project and want to keep the option of coming back to this committee for funding that they have repeatedly stated that they do not need.

We need to focus on ensuring that we have the funds to educate our children, not funding an idea that does not even have the necessary approvals to come fully into fruition.

I urge the committee to pass House Bill 715

Sincerely,

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.