



**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Unfavorable**

**Senate Bill 253**

**State Finance and Procurement-Prohibited Appropriations--**

**Magnetic Levitation Transportation System**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 4,500 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees and families.

Senate Bill 253 would create significant barriers for public and private investment in the construction of a magnetic levitation (maglev) transportation system connecting Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. The legislation would render any maglev project impossible to construct.

The Chamber believes that improved state transportation networks boost economic opportunity, and we work to advance short- and long-term solutions to statewide transit needs. A privately owned maglev line would create jobs, generate new economic activity and transform Maryland into a leader in 21<sup>st</sup>-century transportation solutions.

Also, increased transit options would dramatically reduce commute times, thereby increasing productivity and unleashing new opportunities for businesses statewide. Enhanced options for Maryland commuters would also lessen the state's carbon footprint by reducing use of state highways.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on SB 253.