



**NATIONAL CAPITAL BAPTIST CONVENTION
OF WASHINGTON, DC & VICINITY**

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March 5, 2020

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The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
MD General Assembly
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1238 Transportation – Magnetic Levitation Projects – Requirements

POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Barve,

While I serve as president of the National Capital Baptist Convention, which includes member churches in Maryland's Charles, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, as well as the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia, I also pastor residents of the DC region, and am a homeowner in Prince George's County. I am concerned about the future of our region in several ways, and included among those ways are the areas of education, employment, and transportation. That is why I write to you in opposition to House Bill 1238.

If approved by the Maryland General Assembly, the proposal would be harmful to the fate of the SCMAGLEV project. HB 1238 does not speak to the need in African American communities for employment and empowerment.

The SCMAGLEV project will generate large numbers of both permanent jobs and construction-related jobs. A variety of positions will be available - from high-skilled STEM careers to administrative roles to maintenance functions. This project will help lead to a brighter future for many diverse Marylanders.

At NCBC, our churches are not only places of worship, but stewards of our community's welfare. The economic opportunities this project will provide are momentous, and our relationship with Northeast Maglev will benefit communities served by our member churches.

We are committed to working with Northeast Maglev to make sure individuals from my region take advantage of the opportunities. That is why my organization supports the project.

Proposals like HB 1238 introduce risk for the SCMAGLEV project, and the loss of the project would be a great disadvantage for many Prince Georgians and residents of other DMV communities.

So, please do not limit our access or impose roadblocks to our opportunity. Whether we will ride the train, build the infrastructure, operate the service, own businesses that contract with the developer, or have children who are inspired to enter STEM careers, this is an idea whose time has come - and we need to be involved.

For this reason, we ask that you submit an unfavorable committee report. It is in the best interest of our communities, and I believe our state, and region.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Pastor Charles W. McNeill, Jr.
President

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