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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 Kumar Barve

Chairman of the Environment and Transportation Committee

6 Bladen Street, Room 251

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Good Afternoon, Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of this wonderful committee.

I am Delegate Williams and I am testifying in favor of House Bill 1238.

I know that this committee is familiar with the MAGLEV project. The residents of not only my District, but also several other Districts in Northern Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County have serious concerns about the long term viability of this project.

We know that the Central Japan Railway Company is currently constructing a similar train with the same technology in Japan. Two major differences between that project and the project here in Maryland is that the Japan project is completely above ground. The majority of the project here is underground consisting of deep tunneling under Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County. This company has never done deep tunneling before. They will probably talk about the boring for the rail project in London. But the Central Japan Railway Company is not the company building the London project.

They will claim that this bill will kill the project which is not accurate. This bill will simply ensure that the counties most impacted by the project will be able to provide some oversight to protect the residents of their county. They will talk about how this bill is changing the playing field for their company in the middle of the process. Yet when we tell people that we are going to come in and take their home to building this project or jeopardize the integrity of the soil under people's homes that they purchased without those residents ever thinking something like this would happen, we are changing the playing field for those Marylanders and probably their largest single investment. With any enterprise there is a risk that is always associated with that enterprise. Most successful companies usually plan for those risks. This bill is no different.

The opponents of this bill will bring to you various groups like the NAACP or the Chamber of Commerce that have never spoken to residents of the communities impacted by the construction of this project. These groups do not represent the communities on this issue.

Instead of fighting with the communities that will be most impacted by this project, the opponents of this bill should focus on trying to find a solution that all parties can live with instead of ramming this project down the throats of working class Marylanders.

I urge the committee to pass House Bill 1238

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am happy to take questions.

Sincerely,

Nicole A. Williams, Esq.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.