

CITY OF GREENBELT

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD. 20770-1886



March 5, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1238

Dear Chair Barve & Committee Members:

The Greenbelt City Council would like to express its **support for House Bill 1238**. We also respectfully request that the bill be amended to require the consent of affected municipalities as well as counties, and the language be changed from “majority” of the governing bodies to “all” of the governing bodies. The City opposes the MAGLEV project as it believes there are many other important transportation priorities and needs where public/private funding would be better spent, such as improving existing rail and transit services.

The communities and neighborhoods along the proposed routes, including Greenbelt, would endure both short and long term disruption without *any* benefits. Greenbelt is a National Historic Landmark and planned community with parks, open spaces and recreational amenities. The project could have destructive impact on valuable and environmentally sensitive resources. The environmental concerns include noise pollution, destruction of natural habitats, and harmful health impacts.

It is not clear if indeed the MAGLEV will bring jobs to the area. It may create *temporary* highly specialized jobs in engineering and construction that would go to individuals and companies that already have those skills and expertise and which may not necessarily be located within the area. Or, it may facilitate high-speed access to jobs elsewhere with no positive impact for the communities it will pass through. Maryland already has a high speed train to Baltimore and on to the north, the Acela line. It is likely that the cost for a seat on the MAGLEV will be prohibitive and out of reach for many people.

We urge the Committee to vote favorable on House Bill 1238 with the requested amendment.

Sincerely,

Colin A. Byrd, Mayor

cc: City Council
22nd District Delegation

CITY COUNCIL
Colin A. Byrd, Mayor
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