

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 765** Transportation – Magnetic Levitation Projects – Requirements

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Barve,

I am writing to oppose **HB 1238**.

As a long-standing community partner, the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce ensures that the county maintains a healthy business climate, a well-trained and educated workforce, quality schools and safe neighborhoods - not just for the interest of business, but for the future of our community - this bill stands in the way of the type of progress we stand for.

This bill aims to establish unnecessary hurdles for the sole purpose of stopping the SCMagLEV project. The fact is that Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail is not operating in isolation. The company has been working closely with over thirty Federal, State, and Local agencies in the years long Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process being led by the Federal Railroad Administration. The Federal process, already in progress, addresses the concerns of this legislation.

As important as Baltimore County is to us, we recognize that a project like this represents more than just our county. It represents job opportunities, business opportunities, and community growth and development opportunities for millions along the Northeast Corridor. It represents a future with less pollution, traffic, and with an emphasis on clean, efficient transportation and transit oriented development. We want to be a part of this future.

We ask that you support the positive long term impact that a project of this size and scope will have on the Baltimore region and beyond. We urge that you submit an unfavorable committee report on HB 1238.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Howard'.

Brent Howard,
President and Chief Executive Officer
Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce
102 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 101
Towson, MD 21204

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:

