

102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 101 Towson, Maryland 21204 Phone 410-825-6200 Fax 410-825-0019 www.baltcountychamber.com



Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce

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.

















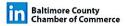


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Sincerely,

Brent Howard,

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













