



*110 Years Empowering "Men and Women of the Gospel to Change Our Direction to Claim Our Destiny" (Deut. 1:6-7)*

**Bishop J. L. Carter, MCBV President, [pastor@arkchurch.com](mailto:pastor@arkchurch.com)  
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March 5, 2020

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

POSITION: OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 1238

Dear Chairman Barve:

As president of the Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity (MCBV), a leading group of denominational and nondenominational Black and Brown clergy members and laity primarily from the Greater Baltimore region, I am providing this opposition letter regarding House Bill 1238.

For the past 111 years. MCBV has collaborated on spiritual and social justice interests in order to serve as a catalyst for positive change in the communities where member churches and other faith-based institutions are located. In many of these areas, unemployment and underemployment are critical concerns. The development and operation of the SCMAGLEV high-speed train project will bring thousands of jobs, contract opportunities, reduced highway congestion, and other benefits to our state and region.

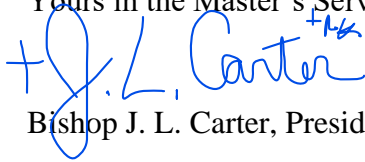
House Bill 1238 appears more focused on stopping the SCMAGLEV project than addressing a need that is not covered. The developer has been collaboratively working with over thirty Federal, State, and Local agencies over the course of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. It appears that with the EIS being a Federal process designed to take into account input

from all levels of government, advancing this bill would be duplicative at best. We believe that the Maryland General Assembly should let the existing regulatory and legal processes that have worked for other major transportation construction projects remain in place for the SCMAGLEV project.

As the proposed SCMAGLEV train offers our region a future with less pollution and traffic, and with an emphasis on clean, efficient transportation and transit-oriented development, we believe that Maryland should support its development.

On behalf of MCBV, I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to provide an unfavorable committee report for House Bill 1238.

Yours in the Master's Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. L. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C". There is a small blue mark above the "C" that looks like a checkmark or a correction.

Bishop J. L. Carter, President

Ministers' Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity