



January 17, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB0079 —STATE FINANCE –
PROHIBITED APPROPRIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Feldman, and Members of the Senate Budget and
Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees,

As representatives of the Mt. Winans community of South Baltimore, we write to
thoroughly express our condemnation of SB0079 and our support for the

Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) project. We encourage the proposal of a South Baltimore SCMAGLEV station, as it represents investment, commitment, and growth within South Baltimore and beyond. SB0079 seeks to actively destroy these opportunities, hence our strong opposition to this bill.

The Mt. Winans community, and all other South Baltimore communities for that matter, stand to benefit greatly from this project. Not only would the SCMAGLEV be an important part of Baltimore's renaissance, but the project will highlight the strengths and abilities South Baltimore, specifically, has to offer.

BWRR has been extremely communicative and cooperative in this process, and we look forward to continuing to develop community outreach activities and planning documents in order to best benefit Mt. Winans and South Baltimore communities as a whole.

Furthermore, BWRR has pledged to not request state funds, so we view SB0079 as simply unnecessary, and has the potential to block similarly innovative and future-oriented projects. This bill is simply not written with communities in mind and actively stands in the way of progress. We strongly urge the committee to submit an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 79.

Sincerely,

Angela Smothers

President, Mt. Winans Community Association