

**Testimony by Mayor Duane Rosenberg, City of New Carrollton  
February 25, 2020**

**In Support of House Bill 715, An Act Concerning State Finance and Procurement –  
Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System**

Good Afternoon, Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today. I am here on behalf of the residents of New Carrollton and surrounding northern Prince George's County communities to support House Bill 715. In fact, I am one of some dozen mayors in northern Prince George's County who held regular meetings during 2018-2019 to review the impact of a number of proposed transportation initiatives affecting our communities. There was wide consensus in opposition to the MAGLEV project for a number of reasons.

We mayors refer to ourselves as "Mayors for Sustainable Transportation," and, over the last two years, held meetings with local, state and federal elected officials to express our concerns with proposed transportation plans for the D.C. Metropolitan area, specifically for northern Prince George's County. Transportation decisions made today will impact the economic and environmental sustainability for our communities for decades and generations to come. We are not opposed to improved transportation projects, but we believe there are more sustainable models than MAGLEV.

From all accounts, our constituents oppose the MAGLEV project and have voiced their concerns to us elected officials through town halls and correspondence. The residents in our communities do not see MAGLEV as responsive to the needs of the everyday commuter. Yet the negative impact of the train going through our communities will be upon us for decades. We have not been provided the environmental impact study as yet; information is inadequate to make final decisions. More importantly, we are not being informed about the environmental and social injustice this project will have on neighborhoods in the path of the train. We are concerned with the potential displacement of Prince George's County residents through eminent domain, along with the risk that the MAGLEV infrastructure will have on foundations of home located along the route. We question if this is the legacy we want to leave for future generations?

I am here today to encourage you to pass HB715 prohibiting the State and certain units and instrumentalities of the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State; prohibiting a public or private entity that receives money from the State from authorizing a permit or giving any other form of approval for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State; and prohibiting a proposal for a magnetic levitation transportation system from using certain rights-of-way or track owned or operated by Amtrak or CSX transportation.

This proposed project is riddled with unknown factors and we view the risks as far outweighing the economic benefits the state hopes to gain from this technology. On behalf of the northern Prince George's County communities, I emphasize that quality of life is a top priority; something that we are not willing to sell to proposed transportation projects like MAGLEV.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our concerns.