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The Honorable Ann Healey and Members of the
Rules & Executive Nominations Committee

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RE: Support House Joint Resolution 7

As State Legislative Director for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's I am urging your committee to **support House Joint Resolution 7**, "2026 FIFA World Cup - Protection of Human Rights."

Our organization represents railroad workers who are employed by CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Canton Railroad and in MARC and Amtrak commuter services.

Baltimore and Washington are in the running for "host city" designation for the FIFA World Cup in 2026.

Based on economic data from previous World Cup games, hosting cities can expect between \$300 to \$500 million in economic activity with a potential impact for Marylanders worth nearly \$1 billion, with tens of thousands of international guests attending.

That would mean thousands of job opportunities and the demand for reliable public transportation would increase dramatically. This is a great opportunity for our state.

Maryland should not only support the efforts to win the bid as a host city, but also take action to prepare the facilities that will be needed to make the event a success.

In addition, the state should commit to the principles of FIFA's "Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy." This agreement is FIFA's commitment to establish and integrate respect for human rights through the 2026 bidding. The state will receive a higher priority in the bidding process by demonstrating adherence to these human rights values within their proposal for bid.

Passage of House Joint Resolution 7 will ensure that the committee reviewing the bids will have no doubt as to the commitment the state, as host, has in making this event a great success.

We urge a favorable report on House Joint Resolution 7.

Sincerely

Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director

SMART Transportation Division