

January 25, 2021
Senator Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Maryland State Senate
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0188 - State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation - Transportation System

Position: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our 500-member businesses and more than 45,000 employees in Montgomery County, this statement is in **Opposition to SB0188 - State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation - Transportation System**. This is a repeat effort from last year's legislative session which came to naught. The MAG LEV concept of a supersonic means of travel along the East Coast is a futuristic dream, however it is not outside of the realm of possibility. This bill seeks to squash its' possibility. To that end, passage of this obstructionist legislation would make a strong statement about Maryland; It seems to say that State leadership is going to ignore innovation even though there is no "ask" for funds from the State to subsidize or develop this project.

We believe the State and particularly our region should be open to any and all ideas that seek to ameliorate our pressing problem of congestion, which threatens our economy's growth on a daily basis. By supporting legislation that obviates the possibility of something as innovative as MAG LEV the message from Maryland says we aren't in the business of solving transportation problems and we appear to look with disdain on private investment in the infrastructure. Let's stop putting up barriers to progress. Our local businesses certainly will not benefit from such a position. Additionally, mega public projects provide substantial jobs and enhancement to the economic health of our business community.

We ask you to please vote UNFAVORABLE on this short-sighted bill which reflects the lack of long-range planning for our community's future and that of the State. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



Allie Williams
President & CEO