



Craig A. Moe
Mayor

CITY OF LAUREL OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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HB704 - SUPPORT

February 8, 2021

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

Dear Chairman Barve,

The City of Laurel strongly supports HB704 Land Use- Magnetic Levitation Transportation System Siting (Maryland Stop the Maglev Act of 2021) and urge a “YES” vote on the bill that would prohibit a person from constructing a magnetic levitation transportation system within 2 miles of certain property; prohibit units of State and local government from taking certain actions related to the construction of a Maglev within 2 miles of certain property; establish that the prohibitions under the Act do not apply if certain approvals have been obtained; authorizing counties to adopt local laws for the use of certain land under certain circumstances; etc.

On February 26, 2018, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel adopted Resolution No. 2-2018 formally opposing the SMAGLEV system proposed between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland. Please see attached for the full resolution.

I respectfully request that you support HB704 to prohibit the construction of a magnetic levitation transportation system within 2 miles of protected property in Prince George’s County by voting in favor of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Moe
Mayor

cc: Valerie M.A. Nicholas, President, Laurel City Council
Laurel City Councilmembers
Lou Ann Crook, Acting City Administrator
Christian L. Pulley, Acting Deputy City Administrator
Sara A. Green, CMC, Chief of Staff
Kimberley A. Rau, Clerk to the City Council

RESOLUTION NO. 2-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL OPPOSING THE HIGH-SPEED SUPERCONDUCTING MAGNETIC LEVITATION (SMAGLEV) SYSTEM BETWEEN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Sponsored by the President at the request of the Administration.

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SMAGLEV) system between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland, with an intermediate stop at BWI Airport; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), FRA and MDOT conducted a series of Open Houses which provided opportunities for the public to review and comment on the preliminary alternatives screening analysis results, the overview of alternatives recommended for detailed study, technology and engineering features and preliminary station information; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and a majority of the members of the City Council have attended the Open Houses, have read much information provided on the proposed SMAGLEV by BWRR and MDOT, and have been briefed by staff on the proposed SMAGLEV; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council supports addressing regional transportation needs and providing City and Northern Prince George's County residents with additional and improved transportation options to travel throughout the region, provided they adequately serve the current and projected future needs of the residents of Laurel and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, as proposed, the SMAGLEV Project will cut through Northern Prince George's County, taking people's homes and land, while seriously damaging the environment and offering no benefit to the citizens of Prince George's County and the City; and

WHEREAS, routing the SMAGLEV through the communities around the City may negatively impact property values, and the public's health, safety and welfare, and will be detrimental to the community due to its potential to displace residents in the area; and

WHEREAS, the exorbitant amount of money that will be required to design, construct and maintain the SMAGLEV Project would be better spent on conducting a comprehensive review of the existing transportation elements serving the region that could be funded. The goal of the study should be to provide a list of projects geared towards enhancing and expanding the existing transportation network to include expanding and improving bus lines, including utilizing

high capacity busses, expanding the Amtrak System and the MARC service, in particular the Camden Line, and providing shuttle services for business corridors; and

WHEREAS, our region needs to have more and better intraregional transportation options to move people to and from their residences and places of employment; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers need better infrastructure and upgraded services, not a commitment of funds for another system that serves no one in the City of Laurel or the residents living in Northern Prince George's County; and

WHEREAS, We understand monies for the project now are being spent on the project from the infrastructure loan programs set up for the sole purpose of financing major infrastructure project and the BWRR has stated they will pay these monies back, but the Mayor and Council still find that the SMAGLEV is ill-conceived and that any available transportation money should be used to fund projects that will truly serve the residents of Laurel and the region in a cost effective manner, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that the Baltimore-Washington Parkway East or West routes, either above or below ground gives those in the area concern because of possible damage to those living in the communities and possible adverse impacts to the environment; and

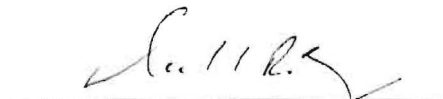
WHEREAS, four (4) public hearings on this issue were advertised and held by the Mayor and City Council on January 8, January 22, February 12 and February 26, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, that the City hereby opposes any further consideration of the SMAGLEV project, especially its construction, given the significant negative impact that the SMAGLEV would have on the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Northern Prince George's County and the City of Laurel and persons who operate businesses and conduct business in the City, the exorbitant cost of the SMAGLEV project and the project's failure to adequately serve the current and projected future needs of the residents of Laurel.

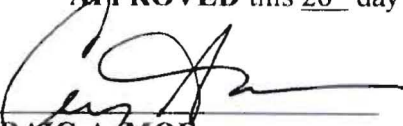
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this action shall be effective upon the date of its passage.

PASSED this 26th day of February, 2018.


KIMBERLEY A. RAU, MMC
Clerk to the Council


MICHAEL R. LESZCZ
President of the City Council

APPROVED this 26th day of February, 2018.



CRAIG A. MOE
Mayor