

Testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee
HB 63-State Finance-Prohibited Appropriations-Magnetic Levitation Transportation System
Position: Favorable

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

As a Montgomery County resident and one particularly concerned about the implementation of improvements in sustainable transportation solutions for our growing population and pre COVID worsening traffic congestion, I am opposed to the appropriation of our state funds for the construction of the Magnetic Levitation Transportation System between Baltimore and Washington DC. Not only will this project do little to resolve the transportation issues of our state, it will certainly not improve transportation options for those state residents who currently need most assistance and will find the MAGLEV unaffordable. There are many other transportation related improvements that would create jobs and go farther to resolve the transportation issues of our region.

A separate no less concerning issue is the trainyard construction resulting in the fragmentation and destruction of the largest contiguous forest land on the East Coast between Richmond and Boston which some call the “lungs of Maryland”. This singularly unique landscape to Maryland cannot be recreated elsewhere and with its loss likely goes most of the wildlife and diversity it supports. We have the good fortune of decades of research from the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center and the Patuxent Research Reserve. These are state landmarks and the subjects of their study are far more valuable to Marylanders than a transportation system that is not even sure to be economically viable. Please give a favorable opinion to HB 63.

Thank you for your consideration,



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