

TESTIMONY: UA PLUMBERS AND GASFTTERS LOCAL 5; UA STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602  
SB 359—STATE FINANCE – PROHIBITED APPROPORIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM  
UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chairs Guzzone and Pinsky, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation and Education Committee, and the Health, Education and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 and UA Steamfitters Local 602, please accept this letter in strong opposition to SB359, which seeks to prohibit any state funding for the construction of any high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) system between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland with an intermediate stop at BWI Marshall Airport.

This is an important project, both in terms outstanding jobs and apprenticeship skills training opportunities, and in terms of the enormous infrastructure that this project represents.

Firstly, th2 \$15B project is projected to create some 74,000 construction jobs and 1,500 long-term jobs annually. This is a rare and critical opportunity to build infrastructure and jobs, at a time when the nation needs them.

In addition, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), which predicts that the project will produce more than \$460 million in annual travel time savings in it's opening year, and will eventually reach up to \$696 million, and between \$31 to \$47 million in annual congestion relief, resulting in an overall reduction the number of vehicles on the roads and a reduction of some 2,000,000 Tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

While the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has paused the EIS to review project elements and determine the next steps, we are hopeful that the legislature does do anything to handicap or tip the scales on this important project, and the related federal decision making.

For these reasons, we oppose SB359, and we ask for an unfavorable committee report.

Sincerely,

Terriea "T" Smalls  
UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer

Chris Madello  
UA Steamfitters Local 602  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer