



NATIONAL CAPITAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. OF WASHINGTON, DC & VICINITY

6239 Audubon Drive • Columbia, Maryland 21044

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve

Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee MD General
Assembly

251 House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

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RE: **HB 120** Railroad Companies - Condemnation Authority - Application
POSITION: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Barve,

I have the distinction of serving as president of the National Capital Baptist Convention, which includes member churches in Maryland's Charles, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, as well as the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. Not only do I pastor residents of the DC region, but I am a homeowner in Prince George's County.

I write to you today in opposition to **House Bill 120**.

If approved by the Maryland General Assembly, the proposal would not only be harmful to the fate of the SCMAGLEV project, but it would also place severe limitations on the State to attract investment by closing off the adoption of an entire transportation technology. HB 120 is short-sighted and does not speak to the need in African American communities for employment and empowerment.

The SCMAGLEV project will generate large numbers of both permanent jobs and construction-related jobs. The project represents a huge number of career opportunities – everything from high-skilled STEM and advanced construction careers to administrative and supportive business roles. For many diverse Marylanders, this project will provide a path to a brighter future.

We are committed to working with Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail and Northeast Maglev to make sure individuals from our region can take advantage of the opportunities. This is why our organization fully supports the project.

At NCBC, our churches are not only places of worship, but stewards of our community's welfare. The economic opportunities this project will provide are monumental, and our relationship with the project will benefit communities served by our member churches.

Proposals like HB 120 introduce risk for the SCMAGLEV project as well as any other advanced transportation initiative looking to invest in our area. The loss of this project would be a great disadvantage for many Prince Georgians and residents of other DMV communities.

So, please do not limit our access or impose roadblocks to our opportunity. Whether we will ride the train, build the infrastructure, operate the service, own businesses that contract with the developers, or have children who are inspired to enter STEM careers, this is an idea whose time has come - and we need to be involved.

For this reason, we ask that you submit an unfavorable committee report. It is in the best interest of our communities, and I believe our State and region.

Thank you for your support. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. McNeill, Jr.", written in black ink.

Pastor Charles W. McNeill, Jr.
National Capital Baptist Convention of Washington, D.C. & Vicinity P.O. Box
72
Lanham, MD 20703