



MTBMA

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS
AND MATERIALS ASSOCIATION

January 27, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 120 – UNFAVORABLE – Railroad Companies – Condemnation Authority – Application

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

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 120 would exclude any company that owns or operates a railroad powered by a magnetic levitation propulsion system, commonly referred to as a Maglev train, from the general provisions of the Public Utilities Article of the Maryland Code authorizing a railroad company to acquire property by condemnation for use in the construction, operation, and upkeep of its roads or works.

This bill would impose a costly, burdensome, and unfair penalty specifically on Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail, the company that operates the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) project. SCMAGLEV is the type of transportation project that represents stable, well-paying jobs for our workers and promotes forward-thinking, transformational transportation opportunities for millions along the Northeast Corridor. This bill is an obvious attempt to block not only a source of thousands of transportation construction jobs in Maryland, but also an environmentally friendly public good for so many.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 120.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association