



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

6239 Audubon Drive • Columbia, Maryland 21044

President

Rev. Stephen E. Tucker
(410) 570-4082

Special Assistant to the President

Sis. Joyce Milton
(202) 492-9281

Vice President-at-Large

Rev. Willie T. Lawson
(301) 399-7114

First Vice President

Rev. Damian M. Briggs
(301) 974-1814

Second Vice President

Rev. L. K. Floyd
(301) 875-5037

Third Vice President

Rev. Robin A. Toogood, II
(202) 436-5655

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(301) 203-8425

Assistant General Secretary

Rev. Jerome (Sam) Tarver
(301) 518-4492

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D'ness Taffene D. Hollingsworth
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D'ness Floraine E. Cunningham
(301) 442-5834

President, Ushers/Nurses Auxiliary

Min. Steven Norris
(240) 601-4434

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Maggie
McIntosh
Chair, House Appropriations
Committee
Room 121, House Office
Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 326

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 326—STATE FINANCE – PROHIBITED APPROPRIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Dear Chair McIntosh, Chair Barve, and Members of the House Appropriations
and Environment and Transportation Committees:

As the former 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 326.**

If approved by the Maryland General Assembly, this proposed legislation would
place severe limitations on the State to attract investment by closing off the State
to an entire transportation technology. HB 326 is short-sighted and does not
speak to the need in our 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.

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.

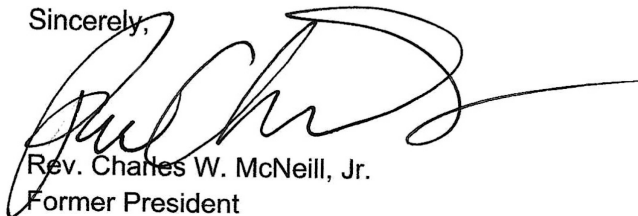
Proposals like HB 326 introduce risk for the SCMAGLEV project as well as any other advanced transportation initiative looking to invest in our area. The loss of this project would be a great disadvantage for many Prince Georgians and residents of other DMV communities.

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.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. McNeill, Jr.", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Charles W. McNeill, Jr.

Former President

National Capital Baptist Convention of Washington, D.C. & Vicinity

P.O. Box 72

Lanham, MD 20703