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Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Honorable Delegate Kumar P. Barve

Chairman of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

6 Bladen Street, Room 251

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 326

Good afternoon Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying today in favor of House Bill 326, also known as State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System. For those who were here last year, you know that this bill aims to ensure that state funds and taxpayer money do not go towards the construction of a MAGLEV train.

Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on how we allocate funds in our state budget. At a time where there are a multitude of crises that warrant state intervention, the appropriation of funds towards a project that is opposed by residents of multiple districts is inappropriate.

The parties that would be responsible for the financing and construction of the MAGLEV train have stated previously that there would be no need to rely on state funding. By passing this legislation, we can hold them to that promise. State funds would then be able to go towards other priorities, such as bolstering our education system and helping working families that are still reeling from the effects of the pandemic.

The goal of this legislation is to ensure that hardworking Marylanders do not end up footing the bill for a project that has such vocal opposition from members of our communities

and is not ready for primetime to really address a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions up and down the I-95 corridor.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 326.

Sincerely,

Nicole A. Williams, Esq.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.