

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770



February 15, 2022

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

CITY COUNCIL
Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor
Kristen L.K. Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem
Colin A. Byrd
Judith F. Davis
B. Ric Gordon
Silke I. Pope
Rodney M. Roberts

Re: **House Bill 326**

Dear Chair Barve:

On behalf of the citizens of Greenbelt, we urge you to **support House Bill 326** which would prohibit the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State; providing that the prohibition does not apply to certain expenditures for salaries; and generally relating to State appropriations for magnetic levitation transportation systems.

Any State resources that could go to the proposed Maglev project would be far better spent on sustaining and improving existing rail and local transit services. High speed Amtrak service, the MTA, MARC trains, and WMATA provide far greater benefit to Marylanders in terms of access and affordability. Substantial public investments to sustain and improve these services will be required in the coming years. Funding for these services, funding for bicycle and pedestrian connections, and ways to move commuters to our transit hubs are the best place to put taxpayer resources.

A magnetic levitation transportation system will not benefit any of the communities and neighborhoods along the proposed routes in Maryland, and it is not clear that this project will actually reduce traffic congestion. The Maglev would also destroy sensitive environmental resources and habitats; impact rare, threatened and endangered species; and eliminate vast swaths of tree canopy that are treasured by Marylanders. The project could impact nearly 89 acres of wetlands and up to 30 acres of Maryland Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern (NTWSSC). These wetlands have exceptional ecological or educational value of Statewide significance. The impacts to the NTWSSC located in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve along Goddard Branch are of particular concern to Greenbelt. There is also concern about the impact on our region's business community and important scientific and research activities at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

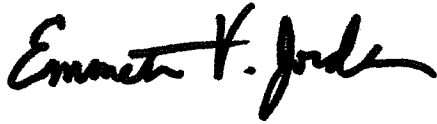
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State resources that could potentially be allocated to the Maglev project in the future would be better spent on improving existing rail and local transit services. Maryland taxpayer resources should not be appropriated for a Maglev System that undermines the natural resources so many Marylanders are fighting to preserve.

On behalf of the City of Greenbelt, we urge you to support HB 326.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emmett V. Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor
City of Greenbelt

cc: City Council
22nd District Delegation