

January 25, 2023

SB0050

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation
Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB0050 —STATE FINANCE – PROHIBITED
APPROPRIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Feldman, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees,

The Prince George’s County Contractor’s and Business Association writes today to express our opposition to SB0050. This bill aims to effectively prohibit the construction of a Maglev system anywhere in Maryland, regardless of these projects’ potential benefits, such as thousands of construction jobs, millions in economic development, and overall bolstering of Maryland businesses.

This bill was written without any clear consideration of what preemptively eliminating investment options would mean for Maryland, and will negatively impact projects such as BWRR (Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail), a project that has pledged to finance their project without requesting state funds whatsoever. This bill aims to slash the potential of this project without any regard or consideration of the merits of the Maglev technology or the potential for solutions to issues that cannot be solved without innovative, advanced transit systems.

The language in this bill is so sweeping and nearsighted that it will undoubtedly impact projects far past that of BWRR. As an organization that supports businesses and economic development, we are acutely aware of the impact that transportation has on prosperity. With an intermediate stop at BWI Airport, this project has the potential to benefit the state greatly. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has even concluded the following: “While the number of job opportunities would increase, the labor market impact is two-fold. Some workers would find jobs and transition from unemployment to employment. Some workers would find better jobs than they have currently as they now face a large selection of job opportunities. In this instance, underemployed workers would find jobs that better fit their skills with an associated increase in labor productivity and earnings.”

We simply cannot support a bill that directly undermines such promising economic and social opportunities. Decisions about appropriate transportation modalities should be made based on the expert advice of transportation planners and Federal, State, and county transportation professionals. They should be based on a complete understanding of all of the relevant factors, pro and con, not a priori conclusions. We believe that SB0050 takes the position “my mind is made up; don’t confuse me with the facts.”

Accordingly, The Prince George’s County Contractor’s and Business Association **opposes SB0050** and respectfully requests the bill be given an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Bruce Branch

Bruce Branch
Executive Director