

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: **SB0050** State Finance and Procurement - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic
Levitation Transportation System

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

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

I am writing to share my opposition to SB0050. Additionally, I'm expressing my strong support
for the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail high-speed rail project that will connect Baltimore to
Washington D.C. in 15 minutes.

As a community activist and entrepreneur, I see first-hand the multitude of benefits this
transformative transportation system would have on the region. I'm excited about the
possibilities for investment and employment for businesses throughout our region, bolstering the
economic futures of thousands of residents.

I've been fortunate to have in-depth conversations with Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail about
their plans to develop the SCMAGLEV system equitably. Making sure that women and people
of color have equitable access to the multitude of opportunities associated with this project is
crucial to aligning with our state's ambition of building a brighter future for all Marylanders.

BWRR is not asking, and has pledged not to ask, for state funds in developing the project. This
means SB0050 is a bad solution to a non-existent problem. Additionally, it sends a frightening
message to future generations that we have no qualms making short-sighted decisions before
they even have a chance to weigh in, an affront to their autonomy. They must have every tool at
their disposal to fight the climate crisis and build the transportation system they want. I ask that
the committee not take a viable option off the table.

At this time, I ask that the committee submits an unfavorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gaskins

President & Chairman of the Board

Prince George's County Contractor's & Business Association