



HB106 – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

Testimony before

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 23, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB106**, which would prohibit the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system (Maglev) in the State. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Williams in sponsoring this important legislation.

This country is in critical need of better public transportation and methods of traveling larger distances that will slow or stop the rate of climate change. However, the proposed Maglev system from Washington DC to Baltimore is not the answer. The train would have three stops, DC, BWI, and downtown Baltimore, which means the ridership would most likely be limited to those areas, which could mean only the most wealthy citizens would benefit. However, the path of the train would run through woods and the largest agricultural scientific installation and the only National Wildlife Refuge created to support research. It would also permanently alter these lands, including parks, recreational facilities, and wetlands. There are also concerns of a noise nuisance that could reach up to 3,000 feet from the track depending on the number of trains running per hour. Not surprisingly this noise nuisance would impact lower-income communities.

It is appreciated that this bill would prevent funding for this system and any to be located in the State. Better options need to be found.

For these reasons, we support HB106.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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