

Title: **MCRT & CATS Supports Maryland General Assembly House Bill 0106**

Oral Testimony

Speaker: Daniel E. Woomer
Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit (MCRT) Citizens Against the SCMaglev (CATS)

Hearing: Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Oral Testimony:

I'm Daniel E. Woomer, Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit board member, and member of Citizens Against the SCMaglev, here in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 0106.

The Maglev we see today dates back to 1960. Several U.S. cities/states looked at maglev and all opted out. In 2003 Maryland opted out noting the exorbitant cost. The 2017 FRA's approved Amtrak Northeast Corridor Environmental Impact Study found once the rail system upgrades underway are completed, the rail system will have the capacity needed for passenger service without building a new rail route. This was pre-COVID, when ridership projections were far higher.

Today you will hear SCMaglev will create jobs.

You will hear SCMaglev will pay for itself.

But after all these years, why haven't we seen the analyses supporting these claims?

MCRT challenges these claims with actual research and analyses that can be found on our website.

But THE ONE opposition point I find most amusing is “Passage of this Bill will send the wrong message - Maryland is not interested in high-tech.”

Really?

A simple Internet query shows Maryland is one of the world’s leading regions for high-tech and innovation.

- Johns Hopkins University, its hospitals, the Applied Physics Laboratory, and other research facilities.
- Northrop-Grumman, and its Advanced Technology Laboratory.
- NSA Cyber Security Center.
- National Institute of Health
- University of Maryland its hospital, campuses, and its research facilities.
- And many other universities, advanced Bio Tech, research, engineering companies and laboratories.

But what the passage of this legislation WILL show is most Marylanders are smart enough not to buy a “Pig-in-a-Poke¹.”

In Summary: MCRT is available to meet with you and your staff to share our research, analyses and findings. Thank you.

¹ A pig in a poke is a thing that is bought without first being inspected, and thus of unknown authenticity or quality. The idiom is attested in 1555. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pig_in_a_poke.