

LARRY KASECAMP
Legislative Director

TOM CAHILL
Assistant Director

JOHNNY WALKER
Secretary



ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
176 Conduit St., Suite 206
Annapolis, MD 21401-2597

PH: 301-697-2695
utusldmd@gmail.com

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Chairman Kumar Barve and
Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 600
LAWRENCE KASECAMP

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
KENZELL CRAWFORD

BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHNNY WALKER

Local 1949
ERIC BILSON

RE: SUPPORT HB-106

As Legislative Director in Maryland for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's (SMART) I am writing today to express our organizations support for HB-106 - *State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System.*

HB-106 would prohibit the State and certain units and instrumentalities of the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State.

Our organization is opposed to construction of any magnetic levitation system that would require local or state jurisdictions to contribute property or tax dollars for such a system.

Our current Amtrak and MARC rail systems, which by the way can meet the needs of rail travel between Washington and Baltimore, are in great need of investment to maintain and modernize their systems. It makes no sense to divert any much-needed dollars to a new system with cost estimates from \$10 billion to as high as \$26.5 billion. Especially to a system that would only decrease travel time between these cities by less than 15 minutes and undoubtedly mostly be used by residents in the upper income brackets.

At a time when income inequality as a result of the disparity in opportunities is so obvious, we don't need to exacerbate this problem by investing in an ultra-expensive unnecessary system.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our position on this matter.

We urge a favorable report for HB106!

Sincerely

Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division