

Synopsis and Key Points:

Bill: **HB0106** State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

This bill would:

- Prohibit the State from using any appropriations for a magnetic levitation transportation system located in the State.

Reasons to oppose this bill:

- Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail has never, and pledges to never request State appropriations.
- The Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project has been deemed by a third party (via the DEIS) that the Project would actually alleviate pressure on current State infrastructure and budget.
- In an attempt to stop the Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project, this bill limits the State from ever investing in *any* magnetic levitation transportation technology.
- Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail has continually paid millions in the Federally required State match portion of Federal grants for maglev deployment.

Sample testimony letter provide below:

February 15, 2023

HB0106

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and
Transportation Committee
MD General Assembly
Room 251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
MD General Assembly
Room 121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB0106 – STATE FINANCE – PROHIBITED
APPROPRIATIONS – MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

Dear Chair Barve, Chair Barnes, and Members of the House Environment & Transportation and Appropriations Committees,

The Prince George’s County Contractor’s and Business Association writes today to express our opposition to HB0106. 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 HB0106 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 HB0106** and respectfully requests the bill be given an **unfavorable report.**

Sincerely,